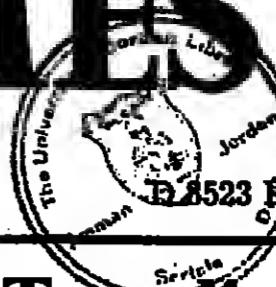


FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

No. 29,852

Rebuke for Ottawa's policies by money markets, Page 5



Tuesday February 11 1986

World news

Business summary

Tehran launches Gulf war offensive

Iran has launched a major, two-pronged offensive in the Gulf War, its first for 11 months. Last night it said its forces had reached the Iraqi west bank of the key Shatt al-Arab waterway.

Iraq said hundreds of Iraqi tanks and vehicles had been captured or destroyed. Iraq, meanwhile, said it had halted the advance's momentum and inflicted heavy casualties.

Page 4

Shcharansky swap

Anatoly Shcharansky, the Soviet dissident, is to be released today by the Soviet Union in an East-West prisoner exchange on Glienicker Bridge, connecting West Berlin and East Germany. Page 3

Haiti elections

Haiti's new military ruler, Lt Gen Henri Namphy, pledged to hold general and presidential elections and formally banned the infamous Tonton Macoutes militia. US praises Haiti. Page 5

EI Al protection

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel could protect its EI Al airline flights against threatened Libyan interception without help from the US. Greece has agreed to re-route some EI Al flights to counter the threat.

Perec dispute

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has sparked a political dispute by arguing in favour of granting more local powers to the 1.5m Arabs in the occupied West Bank. Page 4

Mandela's delay

Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, dampened speculation that he was about to be released and said he may well be freed in the middle of the year. South African deadline. Page 4

Indian prices protest

Protests over price rises paralysed New Delhi as major stoned buses and schools, offices and markets closed. The Press Trust of India said more than 1,300 people were arrested.

Helicopter crashes

A French navy helicopter with 14 people aboard crashed in stormy weather off Corsica. Port officials held little hope of finding survivors.

Party's progress

An Irish political party founded only seven weeks ago could win 25 per cent of the vote if elections were held now, according to an opinion poll. Background, Page 2

Polish draft plan

A draft political programme covering the Polish Communist Party up to the end of the century has reaffirmed support for the country's decentralising reforms. Page 2

Ball for banker

Count Ferdinand von Galen, the banker facing charges over the near-collapse of West Germany's SMH bank, is to be released on bail of DM 10m (£4.2m). Page 3

UN efforts praised

UN efforts to bring about a peace settlement in Cyprus were praised by Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

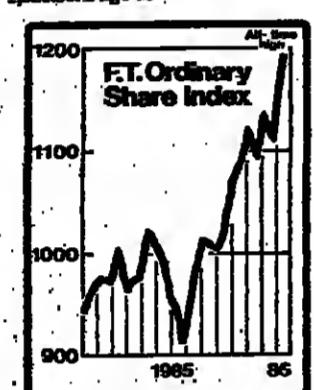
Print union fined

The UK print workers' union Sagat was fined £21,000 (\$33,000) by the High Court and an order was made for the sequestration of its £17m funds over the union's dispute with Rupert Murdoch's News International. Page 2

Vantona steps in with \$1bn Coats bid

COATS PATONS, the Scottish textile group which last week agreed to a takeover bid by Dawson International, has changed its mind and agreed to a rival £74m (\$10.5bn) offer from Vantona Vieyra. The merger would result in one of the world's biggest fibre-to-clothing groups with annual sales of £1.6bn. Page 24

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 12.96 up at 1,626.38. Page 46



Marcos set to retain power as claims of fraud intensify

BY CHRIS SHERWELL AND SAMUEL SENOREN IN MANILA

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos appears certain to retain power under the rules of last Friday's presidential election, but popular protests at alleged fraud have begun to intensify.

Thousands of shouting people crowded outside the National Assembly, under the eye of steel helmeted police last night, as assembly members began the official count of election returns.

In Manila's business district, a young supporter of Mrs Corazon Aquino, Mr Marcos' opponent, was shot dead by a sniper. He was part of a large opposition group travelling to the assembly.

Two unofficial "big counts" of Friday's votes continued to return different running totals. The Commission on Election (Comelec), said Mr Marcos was leading, while the competing National Movement for Free Election, (Namfrel) put Mrs Aquino ahead.

Mr Marcos said yesterday both organisations will continue their count, despite the start of the assembly's official count. Comelec officials said a walkout by technicians on Sunday, apparently in protest at alleged manipulation of its count, served "an opposition plot."

Assembly members in Mr Mar-

coc's ruling New Society Movement (KBL) confirmed yesterday that the president would be expected to win Friday's election. Opposition challenges of the election return would be voted down by the KBL and Mr Marcos would be proclaimed victor.

Only then would Mrs Aquino be able to contest the outcome through the Presidential Election Tribunal, a nine-member body consisting of three law professors, three opposition MPs and three supreme court justices appointed by Mr Marcos.

Yesterday's session became bogged down in procedural argument. The count is expected to take longer than a week and the whole process could last months.

The shooting in Manila took the death toll in the election campaign to 42 since December 6 and 43 since polling began last Friday.

A US Congressional delegation meanwhile, reported "disturbing" efforts to undermine the electoral process, but in its comments, Senate Richard Lugar, its co-chair, was more restrained than in previous days. "Clean" in its absolute form is obviously not an appropriate word to describe what we have ob-

served," said a spokesman.

Feature, Page 23

STERLING gained 90 points against the dollar in London to \$1.0865 but fell to DM 3.36 (DM 3.3625), SEK 2.825 (SEK 2.84), FFr 7.31 (FFr 7.36) and Yen 186.15 (Yen 186.65). On Bank of England figures the dollar's exchange rate index fell to 122.4 from 123.3. Page 39

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FRANCE economy expanded last year by a modest 1.4 per cent in real terms compared with 1.9 per cent in 1984, according to figures published by Insee, the official statistics institute. Page 3

INDIAN PRICES protest

Protests over price rises paralysed New Delhi as major stoned buses and schools, offices and markets closed. The Press Trust of India said more than 1,300 people were arrested.

US urges two sides to work together

BY REGINALD DALE, US EDITOR
THE WHITE HOUSE yesterday expressed concern about allegations of election fraud in the Philippines and called on both sides to "work together to form a viable government without violence."

While the White House declined to comment on the possible outcome, it appeared to be suggesting that President Ferdinand Marcos must somehow accommodate the opposition with the kind of political, economic and military reforms that the US has long been demanding.

At the same time, Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, appeared to be appealing to Mrs Corazon Aquino, the opposition candidate, to work with Mr Marcos and not to condone violent demonstrations, if he continues to cling to his office because of ill-health.

The problem now is that, if Mr Marcos manages to maintain his hold on power, it will hardly be possible to claim that he has a popular mandate. It will also be extremely difficult for the US to come to his aid because of the extent of electoral fraud and manipulation that is believed to have occurred.

Senator Richard Lugar, the leader of the US team of election observers, is due to report to President Ronald Reagan today. But he has already made clear that he has grave doubts about many aspects of the poll.

Mr Reagan has promised increased US aid for the Philippines, but only if the elections were "credible".

Before the elections, US officials said that they did not mind who won, provided that the winner moved swiftly to revamp the armed forces in their fight against the Communist insurgency and to re-

store genuine free enterprise to the economy.

Washington believes that, only if such reforms are undertaken, will it be possible to restore prosperity, contain the insurgency and maintain security for the strategic US military bases. Free and fair elections were meant to be the first of the reforms.

The original expectation in Washington was that Mr Marcos would win the elections easily enough not to have to indulge in massive manipulation of the results.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

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NEW POLITICAL PARTY LEAPS TO PROMINENCE

Irish bandwagon takes off at speed

BY HUGH CARNEGY IN DUBLIN

"I BELIEVE that Irish politics must be transformed. Experience tells me that no such transformation will come from within the existing parties. It must come from outside. There must be a new beginning."

When Mr Desmond O'Malley, a former cabinet minister expelled from the opposition Fianna Fail party, launched his Progressive Democrats with those words last December 21, he could scarcely have imagined the speed with which the public would respond.

Less than two months later, Mr O'Malley has three colleagues alongside him in the Dail, a membership of 14,000 and in the latest of a series of startling advances that have transformed the Irish political equation within a matter of weeks, his party was placed ahead of the main government party in an opinion poll published yesterday.

The poll, conducted for the Irish Times by the Market Research Bureau of Ireland, gave the Progressive Democrats, or "Progs" as they are becoming known, 25 per cent of the popular vote, two points ahead of Fianna Fail, led by Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the Prime Minister.

Mr Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail still led the field with 42 per cent, but, like Fine Gael, it suffered a marked slide since the last poll in November. Support for the Labour Party, Fine Gael's coalition partner since 1982, had collapsed to 4 per cent.

On the basis of yesterday's poll, Mr O'Malley reckoned his party could win as many as 31 of the Dail's 160 seats at the next election due sometime next year. That may yet turn



Mr O'Malley: "There must be a new beginning."

out to be over-optimistic, but certainly most of the political talk in Dublin now is of whether Fianna Fail can any longer win an outright majority and the prospects for a Fine Gael/Progressive Democrat coalition.

Mr O'Malley, a 47-year-old solicitor from Limerick, was thrown out of Fianna Fail last March for refusing to vote against a Bill liberalising contraceptive laws. His departure ended a long period of disaffection with Mr Haughey's leadership.

He went ahead with the new party when he was joined by Miss Mary Harney (32), a Dublin MP expelled from Fianna Fail for voting in favour of the Anglo-Irish agreement on Northern Ireland.

The momentum behind them

was initially boosted when two more Fianna Fail MPs resigned to join them in mid-January.

They were Mr Pearse Wyse,

from Cork, and Mr Bobby Molloy, a front-bencher from Galway.

As the bandwagon has

gathered speed, crowds of up to 3,000 have attended public meetings in Cork, Galway, Dublin and Limerick. Some 2,000 packed Dublin's Mansion House in late January. The audience ranged across all age groups, though most looked to be in the middle-to-upper-income bracket. Party officers say 40 per cent of members are women, one-third have previous involvement in politics, though there have divides evenly between former Fine Gael and former Fianna Fail supporters.

The Mansion House audience appeared thoughtful and critical, but enthusiastically applauded most of the main planks of the Progressive Democratic message.

A key part of this is the desire to get away from "Civil War politics," referred to the the Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. Fine Gael were the "Free States" who worked within the 1920 Act which partitioned Ireland. Fianna Fail grew out of Sinn Fein which fought bitterly and bloodily against the Free State Government for accepting partition.

To this day, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail are split far less by left-right ideological differences than by their different nationalist traditions, a trait which the Progressive Democrats feel alienates many young people.

Mr O'Malley drew a keen response to his passionate advocacy of spending cuts and free enterprise policies that would see a drastic reduction in the role of the state and an

emphasis on wealth creation.

The Irish "look to the state as the place of first refuge rather than one of last resort

...the direction in which we should now aim is to reduce our level of dependency on the state," he said.

Adoption of such "New Right" economics is central to the Progressive Democrats but in the end they may not prove overly popular.

However, the party's appeal to the young especially is immense, enhanced by Miss Harney whose forthright style and call for compassionate social policies balances Mr O'Malley's economic conservatism.

The image of the party as an anti-Haughey Fianna Fail splinter group could yet limit its support, but the rush of public support from all sides seems to have lessened this danger. They would still like to attract a top-line Fine Gael figure to their ranks, though.

Like the Social Democrats (SDP) in Britain, the party is benefiting now from widespread disillusion with the poor economic performance of the two main parties but may struggle when the euphoria wanes and wrangling over detailed policymaking begins.

Unlike the SDP, though, the Progressive Democrats know that under Ireland's system of proportional representation, assured of a representation in the Dail consistent with their share of the vote.

That knowledge gives Mr O'Malley and his team an extra edge of confidence — and equally has sent a tremor of apprehension through the old parties.

Polish party plan backs reforms

By Christopher Bellfield
in Warsaw

A DRAFT political programme for the Polish Communist Party up to the end of the century, which is to be approved by June, has reaffirmed support for the country's decentralising economic reforms.

It assumes that a falling workforce, shortages of raw materials, and the continuing burden of servicing the large foreign debt all make the shift to a more efficient economy vital.

The programme reiterates with some force that wage differentials must be widened to reward efficient production and it even quotes Lenin to deflect hardline criticism on this issue. This is one of the more contentious questions facing the Government which maintains that the majority of the population wants a more equal distribution of incomes and is thus opposed to the reforms.

The economy's structure is assumed to evolve towards technically advanced manufacturing industry at the expense of raw materials' extraction and agriculture.

As for agriculture, the programme seeks to soothe the fears of private farmers by mentioning the development of larger private family farms.

Small-scale private business by co-operative farms less well, with only perfunctory mention in the programme which speaks of strengthening the state sector. This contrasts with the view of many economists who feel that expansion of the private sector could plug many supply gaps.

Voest-Alpine rethinks Oki microchip venture

BY PATRICK BLUM IN VIENNA

VOEST-ALPINE, Austria's state-owned steel, engineering electronics and trading group, is to re-examine its plans to establish a large joint-venture microchip factory in Austria with Oki Electric Industry of Japan, the company said yesterday.

The \$285m deal was signed last May by Voest and Oki and was heralded as a breakthrough by the Austrian group in attracting high-technology investment to Austria.

The "deal" has, however, been plagued by bad luck, and its future became uncertain after the local council where the plant was to be built unexpectedly refused planning permission. Voest's recent financial difficulties put a further question mark over the project.

In November, the group announced record losses of Sch 3.7bn

(\$335m) due in large part to speculation on the oil market by its trading subsidiary.

The scale of the losses shocked ministers and public opinion and the group's chief executive and board of management were forced to resign. A temporary chief executive has been appointed but the group still lacks a management board.

The Government has made clear that new subsidies for the company will be made available only when the new management sets out a full re-organisation plan for the group. In the meantime, projects such as the one with Oki have been set aside.

Mr Rudolf Kirchweger, Voest's temporary chief executive, said yesterday that the original deal had expired

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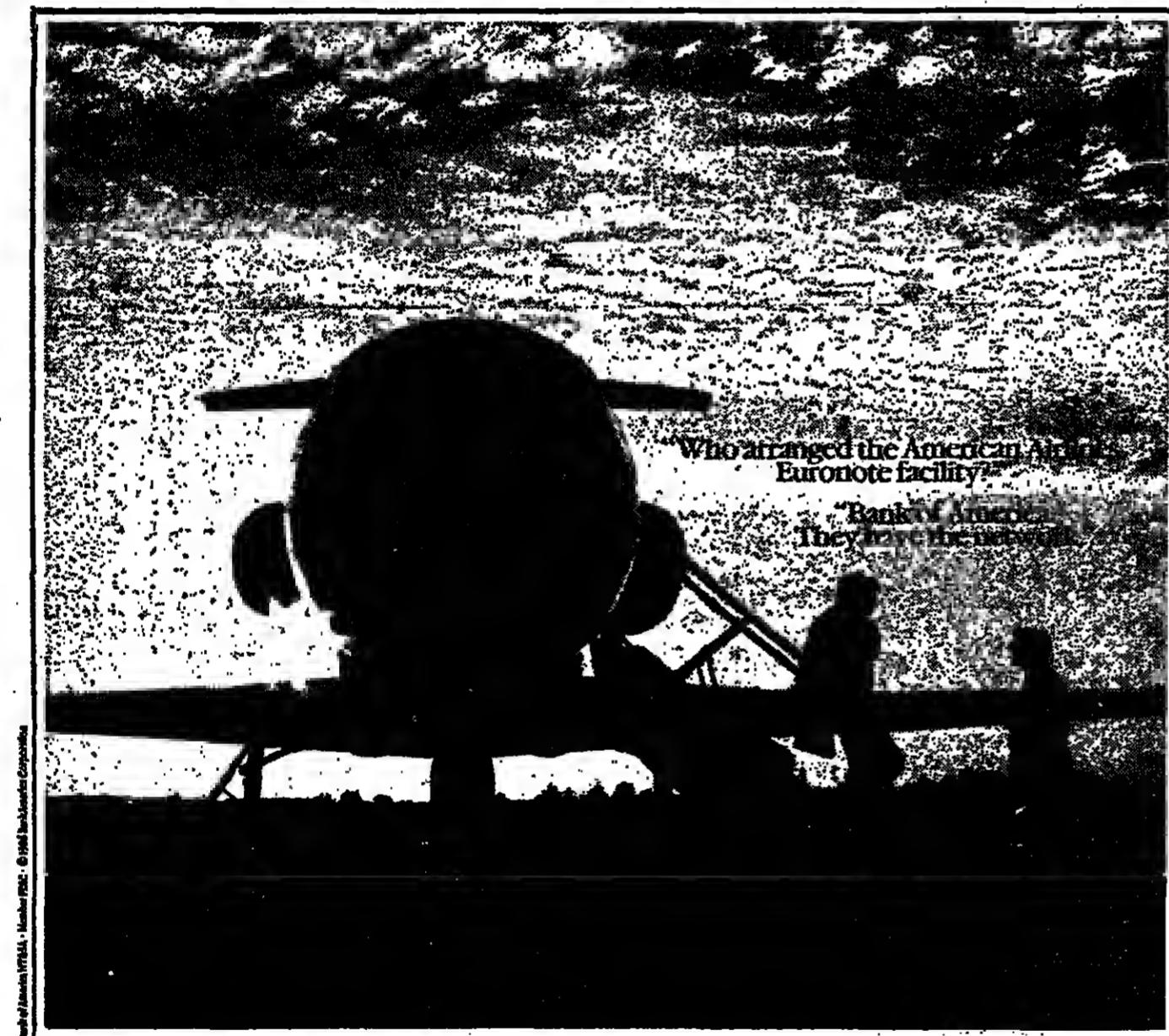
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AT&T Overseas Finance N.V.
By: V.A. Dwyer
Managing Director

Dated February 11, 1986



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OVERSEAS NEWS

Britain and Nigeria restore full diplomatic relations

BY PATTI WALDMEIR IN LAGOS

THE RESUMPTION of full diplomatic ties between Britain and Nigeria, disclosed yesterday by President Ibrahim Babangida, ends a 17-month rift which began with a bizarre kidnapping attempt in London in July 1984.

The move comes at a critical time in the economic fortunes of Nigeria, Britain's largest trading partner in black Africa which bought some £300m (£1.2bn) worth of British exports in 1985.

Mr Umaru Dikko, a prominent Nigerian exile and a former minister in the government of ex-President Shehu Shagari, who was wanted by the military authorities on allegations of corruption, was discovered bound, gagged and heavily sedated in a crate at London's Heathrow airport. He was about to be loaded on to a Nigeria Airways plane bound for Lagos.

In the furor that followed, Britain and Nigeria withdrew their respective High Commissioners, and relations between the two countries sank to their lowest level for many years.

Since the overthrow last August of Gen Muhammadu Buhari, who himself ousted President Shagari at the end of 1983, both sides have attempted to mend fences. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, was the first Western leader to send a message of support to President Babangida.

Whitehall had hoped that a visit shortly after the August coup would

lead to an early exchange of High Commissioners, but Sir Geoffrey Howe, the UK Foreign Secretary, found himself the object of an outspoken public attack by a senior official in Nigeria's ruling military council.

The official, Air Commodore Larry Konyin, again raised the Dikko affair, but in the intervening months his passions appear to have cooled.

When Prof Bolaji Akinyemi, Nigeria's Foreign Minister, visited London in January, he made clear that Nigeria was prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the courts, where Mr Dikko is contesting an extradition order.

He also assured British officials that an appeal by two British aircraft engineers serving a 14-year sentence for assisting an aircraft to leave the country illegally at the time of the 1983 coup, would soon reach the appeal court in Nigeria.

Last month President Babangida announced a 30 per cent ceiling on Nigeria's external debt servicing and said that the country intended to reschedule its medium and long-term debts although no agreement had been reached on a economic recovery programme with the International Monetary Fund.

Economic difficulties caused by the slump in the price of oil, which accounts for over 95 per cent of export earnings, has led to a build up in arrears on Nigeria's trade pay-

Sudan eases import curbs

SUDAN'S Central Bank has eased import restrictions introduced last week in an effort to dispel speculation about an impending freeze on foreign currency accounts.

According to a circular sent to banks yesterday, liabilities contracted before January 30 can be settled without identifying the source of the funds used.

One banker described the move as "very positive" after a week of confusion following the Government's announcement of new exchange control regulations.

Last week's measures seemed designed to halt the slide of the Sudanese pound on the free market, which had been the principal source of finance for the private sector. The free market pound currently trades at twice the official rate of 2.5 to the dollar.

The new regulations stipulate that all foreign currency is to be pooled with a central bank committee which will approve applications for import licences. Earlier Government proposals to ration petrol and basic commodities to reduce the budget deficit officially put at \$516m, have not so far been implemented.

Police made dawn raids over the weekend on shops throughout the capital, arresting traders and confiscating banned import items. Yesterday many shops refused to open and a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce was due to petition the commerce minister to complain over the heavy handed police action.

According to a Chamber of Commerce official, traders would hold a one-day strike if all charges were not dropped.

The government's new measures were announced against a background of deteriorating relations with the IMF. Last week the IMF cut all further credit to Sudan following a board meeting in Washington.

Western officials in Khartoum maintain the Government is still a long way from agreement with the Fund on ways to resolve its \$96m debt position.

1,300 held in India prices protest

BY JOHN ELLIOTT IN NEW DELHI

MORE THAN 1,300 people were arrested in New Delhi yesterday during demonstrations against price rises which Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Finance Minister, warned would have to be followed by further tough action to offset increases in the country's budgetary deficit.

Mr Singh, who is expected to present his annual budget on February 28, hinted that he would have to cut the size of his budget's so-called Five-Year Plan if high expenditure is not offset by either increased public sector efficiency or higher public sector prices.

The arrests took place during a bandh, a day of strikes and protests called at trade unions and political parties in New Delhi to protest against substantial increases in oil and gas prices 10 days ago.

Bus windshields were damaged and trees deflated by demonstrators. Many shops in the city were shut and offices closed. A similar bandh is taking place today in Calcutta and the surrounding state of West Bengal.

The oil price rises originally

amounted to 5-20 per cent on a range of products and were cut by about a third after opposition protests began.

The rises were introduced

to cut demand for oil products

year to March 1986 is expected to be only three to 3.5 per cent above the 2.9m tonnes achieved last year. But demand for oil products is rising at 8.5 per cent compared to five per cent in recent years.

The oil straits at Gandhar

is comparable to Bombay high grade. Geological re-

sources are estimated at 160m tonnes, including oil equiv-

alent of gas.

Gandhar is part of a Rs 9.55bn (562m) Camayha basin three-year exploration project, for which the World Bank has extended a \$242.5m (£173m) loan.

S. Africans die as rival groups clash

By Anthony Robins in Johannesburg

THE charred bodies of five black men executed by flaming "necklaces" of rubber tyres were found by police in the Eastern Cape shanty town of Soweto near Port Elizabeth yesterday.

The discovery was made after a weekend of political carnage fighting between members of the rival United Democratic Front (UDF) and the black consciousness Azapo movement.

The corpses were found after a bloody confrontation between members of the two organisations in the nearby township of Walmer on Saturday when two blacks were hacked to death.

In a similar incident in the Johannesburg township of Alexandra, Mr Jerry Kumata, a local Azapo leader, was stabbed to death yesterday by two unknown assailants who called him out of his home.

Meanwhile, in the Durban area a limpet mine was found in a public park at Amanzimtoti south of the city which was the scene of a pre-Christmas bomb attack on a crowded supermarket in which six people lost their lives. The bomb was defused by a bomb disposal squad.

Elsewhere police mounted a major manhunt in the squatter shack community of Umbumbulu, also south of Durban, where three black policemen were hacked to death on Sunday by a 500-strong crowd armed with home-made guns, spears and panga knives.

The three policemen were part of a seven-man patrol which set out to investigate reports of renewed tribal faction fighting over land and squatter rights in the densely packed squatter townships in which over 110 people have died over the past two months.

Ugandan minister

An article in the Financial Times of February 7 headlined "Museveni's long haul to subdue the north" reported that Mr Paul Ssemogerere, Uganda's new Internal Affairs Minister, had held the same post in the ousted regime of Dr Milton Obote. This is an error. Mr Ssemogerere held the position in the régime headed by Major Gen Tito Okello. We apologise for any embarrassment caused.

Peres call for West Bank autonomy angers coalition

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN TEL AVIV

A POLITICAL row has blown up in Israel over proposals made by Prime Minister Shimon Peres that greater autonomy should be granted to the 1.5m strong Arab population of the occupied West Bank region.

Mr Peres suggested over the weekend, in the wake of the stalemate in negotiations between King Hussein of Jordan and Mr Yassir Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, that Israel should take interim measures on the West Bank prior to any permanent resolution of the dispute.

"Until a formal settlement is reached," he said, "we should

aspire to enable the Arabs (of the occupied territories) to run their lives by themselves, according to their own lifestyle, with a tie to the Arab world."

The Prime Minister's remarks, regarded by western diplomats as intended to put further pressure on King Hussein and to test the reaction of his own colleagues, have produced a chorus of denunciations from all sides, including West Bank leaders themselves.

For one, both Labour and Likud members of the often quarrelling coalition Government have united in their objections.

South Yemen party chief emerges as key figure

BY TONY WALKER IN CAIRO

MR ALI SALEM AL BYDH, secretary of South Yemen's ruling Socialist Party (YSP), although nominally junior to the new president, Haider Abul Bakr al-Attas, has emerged as a key figure and possible new strong man in the country.

Mr Ali al-Bydh, 46, is a veteran of South Yemen's revolution against Britain and has occupied key Government posts including Foreign Minister from 1969-71. Most recently he was local Government Minister.

Mr al-Bydh was close to former president Mr Abdul Fattah Ismail whose death was officially announced yesterday on radio. It said Mr Ismail died of burns inside an army tank hit by supporters of ousted President Mr Ali Massef Mohammad as it was taking him to hospital on January 12, the day fighting broke out between rival Marxist factions in South Yemen.

Mr Ismail was head of the hardline pro-Soviet faction.

Mr Salem Saieh Mohammad, 35, the American secretary general of the YSP and like Mr al-Bydh and Mr al-Attas, is one of the few surviving Politburo members still in power.

Iran launches ground offensive against Iraq

BY KATHY EVANS IN KUWAIT

IRAN launched a two-pronged ground offensive in the southern sector of the Iraqi warfront yesterday, the first in 11 months. Iraqi officials in Baghdad have conceded that some territory has been taken by the Iranians, but said a counter-attack was under way by its Third Army Corps.

The Iranian offensive appeared to focus on the southern city of Basra, although Tehran has also claimed to have captured an island in the Shatt al Arab waterway called Qurna Nasir, south of the city of Khorramshahr. Some observers in the region speculated that the Iranians may be trying to cut Basra off from the south for the first time during the conflict.

An attack on the southern shores of the Gulf would considerably worry Kuwait, whose capital city is just 100 miles

from Basra. It was wounded several days later as he was fighting in an ambulance which came under direct automatic rifle fire.

The new leadership has

pledged to continue seeking better relations with surrounding countries in line with policies pursued by the ousted president. But Government spokesmen are also making it clear that ties with Moscow will remain firm.

Iran has been preparing for

the offensive for more than

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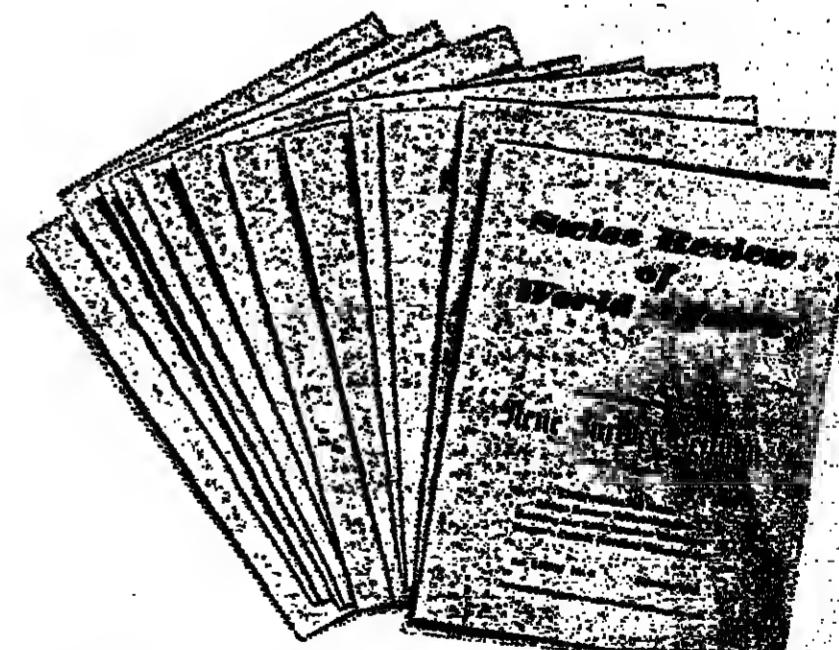
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AMERICAN NEWS

US companies remain opposed to oil import tax

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

THREE US oil-industry remains strongly opposed to congressional efforts to introduce a tax on US oil imports but there are signs that a number of oil companies may be changing their mind given the dramatic problems some of them are facing as a result of the recent sharp drop in world oil prices.

The American Petroleum Institute (Apa) said yesterday it remains officially opposed to the introduction of a tax or "fee" on the 4.5m barrels a day (b/d) of crude oil which the US imports. A number of bills have been tabled in the Senate recommending the introduction of a tax of between \$5 and \$10 on each barrel of imported US oil.

The majority of the support for the proposed oil import tax is coming from politicians in the states of the south and south west of the US which have been badly hit by the reduction in the US energy industry. The argument is that if a \$5 per barrel tax is imposed this will allow local oil interests to rise and help local oil producers and related industries.

Several state governments which have lost money in tax revenues and local bank which are facing heavy loan losses on energy loans are said to be supporting the moves to impose an import tax.

Apa says that an oil import tax would be a "bureaucratic

Venezuela oil prices freed from government control

BY DOMINIC LAWSON IN LONDON AND JOE MANN IN CARACAS

THREE VENEZUELAN state oil company, Petróleos de Venezuela, is to be allowed to set its oil prices without prior approval from the Venezuelan Government.

In a communiqué yesterday, the Government said that Petróleos would now have the "commercial flexibility to adopt itself to the new dynamics of the oil market."

The move is a sharp break with the traditional policy of one of the founding-members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), formed in 1960, of producing governments' control over the price of oil.

At last week's meeting of five leading Opec ministers in Vienna, the oil ministers of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates warned that in the

Shuttle inquiry homes in on safety seals

CARTER ATTACKS US POLICY ON NICARAGUA

THE US presidential commission investigating the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger began to focus its attention yesterday on allegations of weaknesses in the safety seals on the booster rockets, reported Jerry Dernbach from New York.

The commission demanded full details of warnings said to have been given by engineers at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) over problems encountered with the seals. Officials from Nasa will be interrogated on this issue by commission members today, following a complete review of Nasa records on the issue yesterday.

Questions over the effectiveness of the seals, which are used to prevent fuel hoses and rocket interfaces from separating during launch, were raised by the New York Times suggesting that Nasa has been aware of problems in this area for at least a year.

They are used to prevent flames burning through the seams at the juncture of segments of the booster rocket which are assembled from four separately manufactured units.

According to the newspaper report, Nasa was warned by its own engineers that the seals were eroding in flight and told that if this led to the destruction of the seals that join the rocket together, the results "would certainly be catastrophic."

Washington praises Haiti for human rights moves

THE US yesterday commended Haiti's new military-dominated governing council for initial moves to restore human rights and a plan to disband the infamous militia unit known as the Tontons Macoutes, Deuter reports from Washington.

"The new government's actions so far represent a good start and we hope that it will soon take further actions to restore human rights and move towards democratic government," Mr Larry Speakes, White House spokesman, said.

Mr Speakes said the council had moved to disarm and subdue the dreaded Tontons Macoutes, an unofficial militia, to the armed forces. "We understand the force will eventually be disbanded," he said.

Mr Speakes said Washington was encouraged that the new

The Mulroney Government has been reluctant to confront key issues, Bernard Simon reports Money markets rebuke Ottawa's policymakers

INTERNATIONAL money markets have driven home a more forceful verdict in the past six weeks on the Canadian Government's economic and political policies than the local business community has been able to put across in almost a year.

By driving the Canadian dollar down to one cent lower after another, the financial markets have signalled their displeasure with the resistance of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Government to confront some of the key issues facing the country since the Progressive Conservative Party swept into office in a landslide election win 18 months ago.

The dollar sank to a nadir of 69.20 US cents last Tuesday, a drop of more than 2 cents since the beginning of the year and 5 cents below its level last July.

Ottawa won some breathing space last week by intervening in the foreign exchange market and engineering a sharp rise in domestic interest rates. The Government has borrowed more than C\$3bn since the beginning of the year to support the Canadian currency. Commercial banks have raised their prime lending rate in four stages from 10 per cent to 12.25 per cent.

The spread between US and Canadian short-term interest rates, a crucial determinant of capital flows between the two

countries, has widened from 1.8 percentage points, when pressure began to mount on the dollar last November, to almost four points at the end of last week.

These measures have helped push the dollar back up to 71 US cents, and have left foreign currency analysts in no doubt that it will remain above 70 cents for the time being. Lines of credit with a large group of Canadian and international banks give the authorities access to at least US\$7.5bn to defend the Canadian dollar.

Mr Michael Wilson, Minister of Finance, said in parliament last Thursday that the government was "prepared to use its official reserves to enter the market as aggressively as necessary to counter speculative pressure on the dollar."

However, the authorities are not expected to try and push the currency much higher, preferring to avoid further hikes in interest rates.

Whether downward pressure on the dollar once again increases in the weeks and months ahead will be largely determined by what Mr Wilson has to say in the budget which he plans to deliver before the end of the month.

The Canadian dollar's recent weakness is partly due to short-term or cyclical factors, over which the Government has little short-term control. The

tumbling oil price and weak markets for some of Canada's other resource exports have certainly contributed to the dollar's decline.

Canada is also sucking in imports as the economic upswing enters its fourth year. The 5.5 per cent real growth rate in Gross National Product in the fourth quarter of 1985 was the highest of any industrial country.

Mr James Stewart, economist at Dominion Securities Pitfield in Toronto, estimates that the current account deficit on the balance of payments will widen throughout December and January, the Finance Ministry acquiesced in a weakening currency, appearing to over-



Michael Wilson: all eyes on his upcoming budget

rule the Bank of Canada's traditional concern at the inflationary impact of a lower exchange rate. Mr Wilson pointed instead to the benefits to exporters.

From a broader perspective, the passage of the Gramm-Rudman Bill through the US Congress last December was a sharp reminder of the lack of progress towards deficit reduction north of the 49th parallel.

Canada's Budget deficit is proportionally almost double that of the US. The federal Government's outstanding debt grew by over 20 per cent in 1985 and it spends one dollar in every five on debt servicing.

Mr Wilson's promise in last May's budget to contain the 1985-86 deficit at around C\$35bn will probably be fulfilled in the fiscal year ending March 31. But this achievement will be due largely to the higher than expected growth rate of the economy.

Failure to tax increase in the deficit would have been significantly trimmed had the Government not decided last year to bail out uninsured depositors in two failed Alberta banks.

That figure excludes revenue losses from Canada's oil and gas producers, which paid C\$1.4bn in federal taxes from revenues of C\$33.5bn in the first half of last year. The energy industry is bracing itself for lower profits as it is forced to compete more aggressively for markets, especially

in Montreal: "There is a perception in the market that the Government just lacks the will to come to grips with the budget deficit. There is also a perception that Canada will manage its deficit by cutting taxes."

Mr Wilson has promised that his forthcoming budget will make a dent in the deficit. He is expected to announce a cut of about 10 per cent, relying mainly on higher revenues generated by an expanding economy, and the elimination of a number of tax concessions to individuals and companies.

Hopes of significant spending cuts have been lifted by reports last week that the government has ordered a civil service hiring freeze.

Events of the last few weeks have complicated the Minister's task. The Bank of Montreal estimates that the jump in interest rates will cost the exchequer an annualised C\$3bn by pushing down the growth rate and thereby lowering tax revenues and raising unemployment benefit payments.

The business and financial community is disappointed that the Mulroney Government has not taken advantage of its overwhelming election mandate to keep a tighter rein on spending. According to Mr Lloyd Atkinson, chief econo-

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WORLD TRADE NEWS

US drug makers seek retaliation against Britain

By TONY JACKSON

The US pharmaceuticals industry is to lobby for trade retaliation against the UK on grounds of action taken by the British Government to limit drug industry profits.

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA) is taking legal advice on the scope for action under the US Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, which provides for retaliatory action in the case of unreasonable treatment of US investors overseas.

The decision on whether to proceed will be taken in the next two months, the PMA said.

The PMA move coincides with the lodging of a complaint by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industry Associations (EFPIA) with the European Commission about the limited list of drugs prescribable under Britain's National Health Service (NHS).

Several US drug companies have cut back their UK investment and manufacturing activities, blaming the UK Government's reduction of industry profitability under the NHS and last year's introduction of a limited list.

Mr Jay Kingham, senior vice president international of the PMA, said: "There may be grounds for retaliation on behalf of the UK Government's actions. The limited list may be discriminatory, and may also be a denial of trade mark protection to products which have been blacklisted."

UK book publishers press Gandhi on copyright laws

By JOHN ELLIOTT IN NEW DELHI

BRITISH book publishers yesterday urged Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to speed up legal action in his country against book pirates and to try to ensure that exports by Indian printers do not break copyright agreements.

Mr Philip Attenborough, chairman of Hodder and Stoughton, said after talks that Mr Gandhi had spoken out strongly against book piracy in India which has built up rapidly in recent years for fiction and students' books.

Mr Attenborough is leading an 18-member trade mission from the British Publishers Association to an international book fair in New Delhi.

British book exports to India totalled about £1m in 1984 and the publishers have been looking at ways of transferring more printing rights to Indian publishers.

India strengthened its copyright laws in 1984 but the slow

Matsushita aims to lift facsimile sales

By OWE TOKYO Staff

MATSUSHITA, Japan's largest consumer electronics company, hopes to double its sales of office facsimile machines to British Telecom (BT) to around 12,000 units this year, in a deal worth around Y100bn (£573m).

The Japanese company last year sold 6,000 units to BT on an original equipment manufacturer basis. This year, the units will be the G3 format, the fastest available for office use. BT will use some of the machines internally and rent others out.

Matsushita's exports of facsimile machines to Europe have been growing rapidly in recent years, rising from 4,200 units in 1983 to 21,000 units last year.

This year, the company expects to sell 30,000 units to European post and telecommunications organisations, primarily in the UK, Sweden, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland and Portugal.

Seapac signs protocol to build Turkish power plant

By DAVID BARCHARD IN ANKARA

Seapac of Australia has signed a protocol with the Turkish Government to build a coal-fired power plant and port at Yumurtalik on the southern coast under the government's own-operate model devised by the Government of Mr Turgut Ozal.

A financial package will have to be arranged before the agreement can go ahead.

The 1,400MW power plant will cost \$1.4bn (£810m). A company to be owned 30 per cent by the government of the state of Queensland and 30 per cent by the Turkish Electrical Authority (TEK) will be set up to build and operate the plant with an initial capitalisation of \$250m.

It is understood that \$650m of the \$1.4bn will come from Australian and Japanese sources, and a further \$100m from the US Eximbank.

Seapac is justing with schemes by BBC of Switzerland

Commission to suggest steel quota for Spain

By Paul Cheeswright in Brussels

SPAIN THIS YEAR SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO SELL 827,500 tonnes of steel in the rest of the European Community, excluding Portugal, the Commission will suggest to industry ministers.

"There is also the question of whether the cutbacks in production allowed to drug companies are a denial of fair and adequate rights on intellectual property protection."

The 1984 act has not yet been tested in the pharmaceutical field. Action could be taken against the UK in a number of areas at the discretion of Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative.

Mr Kingham said: "The thrust of the law is to arrive at a negotiated position, rather than resort to retaliation."

The EFPIA submission to the European Commission argues that the limited list distorts trade between European countries in a way which may be discriminatory. Several European companies have suffered large cutbacks in business as a result of the limited list.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), the UK drug industry trade body, said: "The current actions of US companies are a manifestation of frustrations which are general in all sectors of the industry, regardless of country of origin. Even British companies must be re-evaluating their commitment to investment in the USA."

The UK Department of Health said: "We have had representations from the PMA and they have now approached the Department of Trade and Industry. There has been no inter-governmental contact."

UK book publishers press Gandhi on copyright laws

By JOHN ELLIOTT IN NEW DELHI

operation of local courts delays cases.

The publishers urged that book piracy should be made a cognisable offence. This would speed up police investigations so that raids could take place before pirates began copying a foreign title had time to move his printing equipment.

British publishers are also concerned about market infringement in India by US publishers. They say that British books printed under copyright in the US are being exported from the US to India.

Two cases are being heard in Indian courts, one brought by Granda over a Robert Ludlum title and the other by Penguin over a number of books.

The experts say Indian printers and publishers cited by the delegation involve books licensed only for sale in India being exported to the Middle East, East Africa and other parts of Asia, infringing the copyright agreements.

Kajima takes share of Shanghai order

By CARA RAPPORTE IN TOKYO

KAJIMA, one of Japan's largest construction companies, is participating in a \$175m (£125m) hotel-apartment development in Shanghai. The deal is believed to be one of the first to be undertaken without any Chinese Government participation.

Kajima plans to undertake the development as part of a joint venture with John Portman, the US design and management company, and the American International Group (AIG), also of the US.

Kajima says the complex will revert to Chinese ownership 20 years after completion. Nonetheless, the joint venture believes it can make a profit before then.

The complex will include two 30-storey apartment buildings to house foreign residents, a 700-room international hotel and a shopping complex.

Kajima is also considering building a leisure and sports complex on Hainan Island.

Chris Sherwell on problems facing a Swiss-supervised imports scheme

Indonesia cuts Customs red tape

By CHRIS SHERWELL in Jakarta

LATE last year, a consignment of chemicals destined for Indonesia was cleared in Singapore in a record ship and a few days later cleared quickly through Jakarta. It seemed like a routine example of Indonesia's efficient new import scheme supervised by Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), the Swiss inspection services company.

Such a figure would hold SGS sales of broadly their present levels, in the first 10 months of last year they amounted to 722,000 tonnes.

A quota on Spanish steel sales to the Community was agreed at the end of the accession negotiations.

The Ten were not prepared to give Spain the right of free sales until its industry received subsidies.

The industry is going through extensive restructuring with the aim of restoring financial viability to companies by the end of 1988.

A teenage for Spanish sales to the rest of the Community is worked out according to a pre-arranged formula. However, the Spanish industry fears the effect of increased sales on its domestic market from the Ten.

Already they run at a considerably higher figure than Spanish sales in the Ten. 1.14m tonnes in the first 10 months of last year, and so Spain may in turn seek restraints.

At its inception many Customs staff were sent on paid leave and posts were purged of new management. Within weeks of its implementation clearance delays had been cut and corruption scaled back.

The purpose of the scheme was to cut import and export procedures to a minimum. Complaints about the complicated arrangements have reportedly been numerous, but SGS, while acknowledging it is not perfect, believes most are unfounded.

Porters agree that the situation has improved markedly, even if there are incipient signs that Customs officers are again becoming more demanding.

In the specific case of the smuggling "exposé," it now seems that the switch from "clean bills of findings" known

as "corruption in Indonesian ports was legendary and importers agree that problems have eased, even if there are signs that Customs officers are becoming more demanding."

in Indonesia as LKPs, have been removed in Singapore immediately before loading and after Singapore verification, while in Jakarta only up to 50% LKPs which importers use to collect their goods at port without customs intervention, are now processed daily.

At important transhipment points like Singapore and Hong Kong, SGS has increased staff to cope with the work, although Indonesia's complaints that the company could not handle the business became so volatile that Mr Rachmat Saleh, the country's Trade Minister, and a batch of Indonesian journalists, paid separate visits to Singapore to see for themselves.

Plainly the SGS arrangement has antagonised those who have lost most by the system of fees introduced by the need to "contract out" the important Customs function.

But corruption in Indonesia's ports was legendary, and importers agree that the situation has improved markedly, even if there are incipient signs that Customs officers are again becoming more demanding.

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UK NEWS

Motor industry's influence muted

WHEN Joseph Chamberlain walked out of Gladstone's Cabinet in 1886, he did so secure in the knowledge that Birmingham was behind him.

The cause had ensured that the Liberals had carried the city in the previous autumn's election. All his fellow MPs followed him, first into the Liberal Unionists and then in the 1900s into the Conservative Party. That helped to prevent the Liberals from becoming a majority party for a generation.

Ever since Birmingham and the West Midlands – the home of the UK motor industry – have been regarded as central to the fate of governments, as well as to the British economy. The swing of voters, particularly in seats with motor vehicle interests, is reckoned to have had a significant impact on the national outcome in 1959, 1964, 1970, February 1974 and in 1978 (when the Tories did particularly well in BL-dominated seats).

Midlands MPs used this record

Tory MPs with seats in the Midlands, the heart of the UK motor industry, were among those who led the protests against the now-cancelled talks to sell Austin Rover to Ford. But Peter Riddell reports on how Britain's political map has changed.

last week to reinforce their successful campaign against the Ford talks to take over Austin Rover, the volume car subsidiary of state owned BL.

There are certainly several constituencies where BL is a big employer – Birmingham Northfield, the Longbridge car plant, Solihull (Land Rover) and Oxford East (the Cowley plant), as well as many surrounding seats where BL workers live.

Indeed, the motor sector has additional clout, compared with other industries which employ more workers, merely because motor plants are so large and dominant in a particular area.

Yet the significance of the motor sector should not be exaggerated. Admittedly, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders can point to 500 constituencies where the motor sector has a presence. But the contraction of the motor and components sector has reduced the number of constituencies where they are the dominant employers.

Moreover, the changing political

map of Britain has meant that

there are only eight seats with signif-

icant motor interests among the

77 Conservative marginals – that is,

where there were majorities of less

than 10 per cent at the last general

election in 1983. Labour did less

baddy then in the West Midlands

than elsewhere in the country, with a well below average swing to the Tories and the loss of only three seats, compared with eight in the smaller East Midlands region.

The Tories' rising tide nationally turned places like the East Midlands, South Wales, north-west England and outer London into the new marginalities.

It is there, and in places where

the Liberal Social Democratic Alli-

ance has emerged as the main chal-

lenger, in southern England, that

the next election will be decided. Al-

though Tory MPs could point to the

danger of their party losing seats in

Midlands if the Ford deal had gone through, the damage might

have been limited to half a dozen or

a dozen constituencies at most, and a

handful elsewhere in Britain.

The move is another stage in the

re rationalisation of this diverse group

which has been undergoing consid-

erable change since a cash crisis

last summer.

After a management shake-up

Thorn EMI has been selling compa-

nies in areas where it no longer

wants to be. The biggest of these

was Screen Entertainment, sold for

£11m.

The chief executive of the new

technology organisation is Mr Tom

Mayer, 31, an associate director of

Thorn EMI who is at present head

of Thorn EMI Electronics, which is

also being included in the new

group. The company refused to say

if Mr Mayer would be made a main

board director although it is proba-

ble that he will.

The group will be divided into six

units reporting to Mr Mayer. These

will be:

- Defence systems, comprising Thorn EMI Electronics, Varian, Electron Tubes, and System Donner.

- Security and sensor systems, with Protech, Matic (US), Datatech and Nuclear Enterprises.

- Information systems, with Thorn EMI's computer companies Datafile, Software Sciences, Thorn EMI Software and Micrologic.

- Telecommunications, with Thorn

- Ericsson and its subsidiaries.

- Semiconductors, including Im-

- mos and its subsidiaries.

- Measurement, consisting of

- Thorn EMI Measurement and its

- subsidiaries.

- Mr Colin Southgate, managing di-

- rector of Thorn EMI said yes-

- terday: "We have an impressive range

- of companies with a high technolo-

- gy base and potential for consider-

- able profitable growth."

- "This move to form them into a con-

- solidated organisation will en-

- hance our ability to focus their

- global strengths on international

- market opportunities in a more

- coordinated way."

Building groups agree £1.5bn Canary venture

By Michael Cassell

FIVE of the UK's largest contracting groups have formed a joint venture to construct Canary Wharf, the £1.5bn office centre planned for the Isle of Dogs in London's docklands.

The agreement involves Costain UK, John Laing Construction, Sir Robert McAlpine, John Mowlem and Taylor Woodrow Construction. The companies have agreed to enter into a contract with Canary Wharf Consortium, the developers of the 16-acre site in east London.

The development consortium said that construction planning work would start immediately and that work on site would commence in 1986. The project cannot go ahead, however, until parliament approves a private bill enabling the Docklands Light Railway.

UK meat consumption up 2.7%

BY ANDREW GOWERS

EEF and veal will appear at last to be fighting back against vegetables in the battle for the British palate, according to figures released yesterday by the Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC).

The figures show that meat consumption in the UK last year totalled 3.67m tonnes, 2.7 per cent above its 1984 level. That was the highest total since 1978 and above the average for between 1970 and 1973.

More significantly for embattled British livestock farmers, consump-

tion of beef and veal took the biggest share of the increase. It rose last year by 6.5 per cent to 1.1m tonnes.

By contrast, poultry meat consumption rose by only 3.6 per cent and pork consumption increased by 3 per cent. Mutton and lamb consumption actually fell by 2 per cent, showing that it might be too early for producers of red meat to declare that they have their rivals on the run.

Mr Keith Roberts, MLC chairman, was quick to claim credit yes-

terday. "These figures, which include supplies for manufacture and catering as well as household purchases, are encouraging for the whole of the meat industry and for the red meat sector in particular," he said.

Red meats such as beef have been losing market share for years to poultry and pork, owing to the twin effects of growing public concern over excessive animal fat in the diet and the exceptionally competitive prices of factory-farmed white meats.

Unionist councils face suspension

BY HUGH CARNEGY

THE GOVERNMENT said yesterday it would seek emergency legislation this week to ensure that local government services in Northern Ireland continued despite action by Uniterist councillors who are protesting against the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Commissioners would be appointed to ensure the continuation of district council work, which is limited to such services as rubbish collection, burials and the running of leisure centres.

The Government is not prepared to allow citizens and ratepayers in any district council to be deprived of those services to which they are entitled, nor to allow the jobs of

council employees to be put at risk," Mr Needham said.

The Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland already sets regional rates and collects both these and district rates.

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council employees to be put at risk,"

Mr Needham said.

The Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland already sets regional rates and collects both

these and district rates.

In a separate move last week,

Belfast City High Court ruled, in an

action brought by the non-sectarian Alliance Party, that Uniterist sus-

pension of Belfast City Council

meetings and refusal to set rates

was an abuse of power. It ordered

the council to meet before February

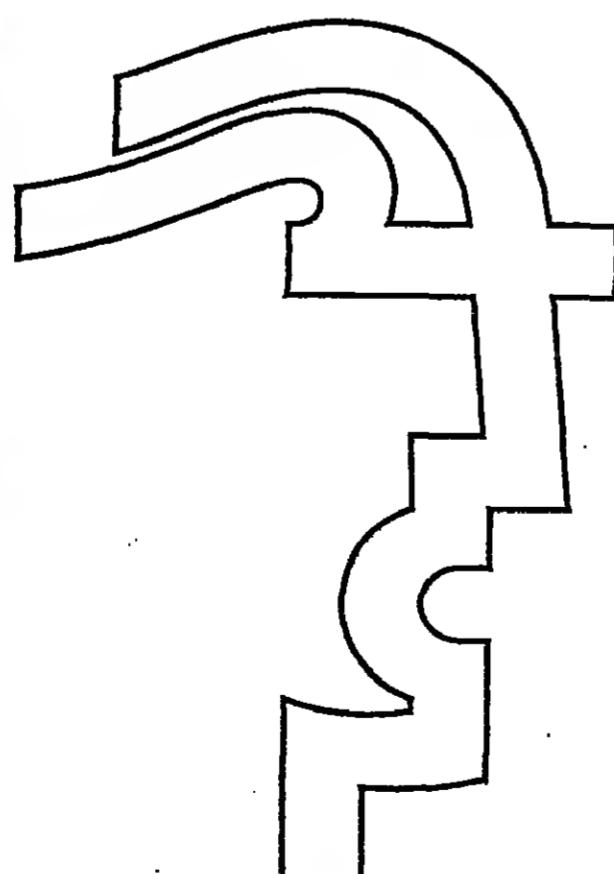
15 to set a rate.

The council will hold a special

meeting tonight to decide what to

do next.

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UK NEWS

NMW ends talks with Citicorp for broker services venture

BY ALAN CANE

NEGOTIATIONS between Citicorp of New York and NMW Computers, the UK's largest stock processing bureau, to form a company to provide dealing and banking services for stockbrokers in the deregulated securities market, have broken down.

The talks were first announced in April last year.

Later this week NMW is expected to announce that it has signed agreements with Barclays Bank to establish a company similar to the projected Citicorp venture. Industry sources suggest that only Barclays has the financial resources, staff and technological expertise to take part in such a venture.

Neither Citicorp nor NMW would comment last night on the reasons for the breakdown in negotiations. It is understood that NMW broke off the talks when it became clear there was a danger that the computer-based systems, to be set

up jointly by the two companies, would not be ready in time for October 27 this year, the planned date for the "Big Bang" in the London securities market.

Barclays Bank will be a full member of the deregulated exchange through its investment in stockbroker de Zoete & Bevan and stockbroker Wedd. Duracher Mordant, Barclays de Zoete Wedd is one of the 28 firms approved by the Bank of England to deal in gilt-edged markets.

NMW already processes over 50 per cent of stock exchange bargains through its computer-based service. Its business grew rapidly after Centreline, the National Westminster Bank computer bureau subsidiary, announced it was leaving the stock settlement business because of the cost of investment in computer hardware and software.

Labour outlines plan for flexible state intervention of industry

BY MARGARET VAN HATTEM, PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

A POWERFUL new forum of state intervention in industry will be essential if British industry is to revive, Mr John Smith, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said yesterday.

Cuthing, Labour's industrial strategy in a speech at Sussex University, Mr Smith said Labour proposals for a new, flexible approach to government intervention were attracting widespread support.

"The time has come, I believe, for the founding of a new organisation, perhaps named British Enterprise, organised and funded by government, to be able to establish new industrial ventures on its own, to enter into joint ventures with the private sector and, perhaps, most importantly, to act as a catalyst for innovation," he said.

"There is so much that needs to be done that I believe that a powerful new organisation along these lines will prove to be essential. It is a form of public ownership and intervention which offers the possibility of flexible and direct action, with or without private section co-operation, which could command wide support within industry as well as be an effective agent in the plan-

ning of our national industrial recovery."

The central failure of the Thatcher government, Mr Smith said, had been their failure to confront the long-term strategic problems facing the British economy. The present fashion for takeovers offered no solution to these problems, nor was it a substitute for industrial policy.

"We must establish criteria which consider the consequences in terms of the future for employees and the advantages for the development of the industry itself," he said.

"With the current free-for-all, the battle between the sector barons makes money for the advertising agencies and the city finance houses who rival each other with increased profits won through the game of 'Who dares merges'."

Labour saw the way forward as involving active demand management to raise the overall level of activity and investment, combined with an active supply side strategy involving a co-ordinated use of industrial and trade policy to address the regeneration of manufacturing industry which is now rightly regarded as central to the long-

term recovery of the UK economy."

Stimulating private sector investment in manufacturing would require a trade and exchange rate policy that could help guarantee sustained and buoyant demand during the transition period, before a regeneration programme could restore the competitiveness of the UK economy.

In the last resort the UK would have to be prepared to go it alone and adopt whatever individual trade policy were required to sustain expansion, he said. But it would be "indefinitely preferable" that UK recovery should be part of a co-ordinated programme involving the other European economies.

Secondly, the extra freedom offered by the existence of substantial stocks of assets overseas as a result of North Sea oil revenues being invested abroad could not be ignored, he said. "The phased repatriation of overseas assets, with institutional tax privileges being made conditional on meeting specified asset portfolio or net investment flow guidelines, could provide a significant proportion of the resources we need," he said.

Japanese buy scotch whisky distiller

By Lisa Wood

TOMATIN DISTILLERS, the Scotch whisky distiller which went into voluntary liquidation a year ago, is to be purchased by one of two Japanese companies. One purchaser, Takara Shuzo, is the largest maker of Shochu, a rice-based spirit.

The sale, for an undisclosed amount, is to a company which has been established in Scotland by Takara Shuzo and Okura, a major Japanese trading house.

For 16 years Okura has handled Japanese sales of Tomatin's bulk-malt whisky exports and its brand, Big T.

Mr Minoru Kubota, president of Takara, which will have an 80 per cent stake in Tomatin said there was a declining trend for sales of Scotch generally. But he added: "In view of the growing tendency towards quality products, a considerable latent demand can be expected for Scotch whisky."

At present Takara Shuzo has no whisky brand in Japan. The strategy for Tomatin which is based in north east Scotland and holds 5 per cent of Scotland's malt distilling capacity, is to build up sales of the company's Big T brand. Current sales are tiny, both overseas and in the UK, compared with the major Scotch whisky brands.

Mr Masaru Suzuki, general manager of Okura in London, said the intention of the purchase was not to secure supplies of bulk malt whisky. Large quantities have traditionally been shipped to Japan as a component of their Scotch. But Japanese Scotch exports slumped by over 30 per cent last year because of problems of major Japanese whisky distillers such as Suntory.

Recently Guinness said that should its proposed merger with the Distillers Company go ahead, it would terminate DCL's exports of bulk malt whisky to Japan. Such exports have caused considerable controversy in the industry. Some argue that such shipments harm Scotch sales, while others claim that they get rid of surplus stocks.

DOWNTURN IN WHOLESALE PRICE INFLATION HALTED**Manufacturers' prices up sharply**

BY GEORGE GRAHAM

MANUFACTURERS made sharp increases last month in the prices they charge at the factory gate, reversing the downward trend of wholesale price inflation in recent months. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said the rise was mainly because of a traditional concentration of price increases at the start of the year, but the increase would cause concern if it was continued in the next few months.

Output prices in January rose 0.8 per cent from the previous month, compared with a rise of 0.2 per cent in December. The year-on-year rate of increase rose to 5.2 per cent in January from 5.1 per cent the previous month, according to figures published yesterday by the DTI.

Industry's costs, however, are still subdued. Prices for raw materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry fell by 7.1 per cent in the twelve months to January, the largest year-on-year drop recorded since the 1950s. This was despite a 0.3 per cent rise over the

latest month. Industry's input prices in the same month of 1985 rose by 1.5 per cent.

January's figures do not yet show the effect of the latest fall in oil prices. Fuel prices in the month remained unchanged. However, the recent fall in the value of sterling will lead to higher prices for non-oil imports.

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Purchase of BA subsidiary claimed

By David Brindley

COLN VALLEY Investments, a company known largely for industrial property investment and development, said yesterday it had negotiated the purchase of British Aerospace Helicopters, the wholly owned BA subsidiary.

BA, however, said no agreement had been reached with Coln Valley or with any of the parties with which it did admit, it had been discussing disposal of the subsidiary.

The statement from Coln Valley caused some surprise. Although a possible sale of BA Helicopters had been rumoured, speculation had centred on more prominent names as likely purchasers.

Coln Valley, a private company established about five years ago by Mr Martyn Meade, last attracted notice last year when it sold its subsidiary Ones Faulkner Holdings, engaged in production of high-quality forgings, to Williams Holdings.

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UK NEWS

Low oil price slows UK coal conversion

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

MANY UK companies that had planned to convert to coal fuel are now having second thoughts because of tumbling oil prices.

Evidence of this has emerged in the dwindling rate of applications to the Department of Energy for grants to assist in converting buildings and other plant from oil to solid fuel.

In the last quarter of 1985 the Department received only 13 applica-

tions, well under half the average for the first three quarters of the year. In the same period, for every three offers of grants which were accepted, another two were not taken up.

Department officials have no doubt that the decline in the number of applications stems from the fall in crude oil prices.

While crude prices have fallen from about \$30 a barrel to about \$18

in the past year, fuel oil prices in Britain have more than halved, but average coal prices have remained unchanged.

The trend is causing concern in the National Coal Board, which sees the industrial and commercial market as its only growth area.

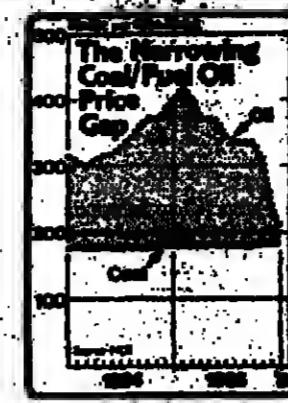
Mr Ian MacGregor, NCB chairman, said last week that the oil price slide was "a stark reminder that we have to produce coal at

costs customers are prepared to pay."

Some 400 grants, worth about £30m, have been paid to a wide range of companies since the scheme was launched four years ago. The grant covers up to 25 per cent of the cost of equipment needed by the applicant to substitute coal for oil or gas.

Despite the falling oil prices, the Government is still encouraging the switch to coal. Last week, Mr David Hunt, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Energy, again hailed coal as "the fuel of the future".

Coal Board chiefs, too, believe that their industrial marketing campaign will continue to make headway, at least as long as crude oil prices do not drop below \$15 a barrel.



British market for small domestic appliances 'shrinking'

BY CHRISTOPHER PARKER

THE UK market for small domestic appliances is shrinking. By 1989 annual sales will be worth only £205m in real terms, 10 per cent less than in 1984, according to a report from the Euromonitor research company.

The trade reached a cyclical peak in 1984 after a three-year spell of rapid growth, the study says. Now, however, "the industry would seem to have come not to a crossroads but to a dead end." Only replacement demand for worn-out appliances and the occasional successful new introduction offer manufacturers any prospect of growth.

Euromonitor suggests that in future there will be fewer possibilities for innovation or upgrading existing products and that will dampen sales.

It points out that, in any case, improvements to traditional appliances have tended to be more consistently successful than introductions of wholly new products.

Combined sales of the three most successful innovations of recent years – food processors, deep-fat fryers and sandwich-makers – were £10m in 1984. The market for electric kettles, shaken up by the arrival of plastic jugs, was worth £75m.

"Most new kitchen gadgets enjoy a brief spasm of demand before the consumer perceives the lack of true usefulness beneath the mask of novelty," the company says. "Apart from these occasional, and often brief, successes, the market continues to be dominated by the three traditional leading products: vacuum cleaners, kettles and irons."

Among the 15 most common existing small electric appliances, the study forecasts that sales of only one – the coffee maker – will have increased by the end of the decade.

Present leaders in the market are Electrolux and Hoover, each with a 10.5 per cent share. However, they owe their position solely to sales of vacuum cleaners and do not manufacture any other small appliances.

That leaves Philips and Aliegay International of the US, best known for its Sunbeam, Rowenta and Rima brands, in the lead in the rest of the market. They have 9.5 per cent each, followed by Braun with 8.5 per cent, Moulinex (8 per cent), Glen Dimplex (6 per cent), Russell Hobbs, the TI subsidiary (3.5 per cent) and Pifco (4.5 per cent).

Black & Decker, the US company best known for its power tools, launched a range of small domestic appliances late last year, and does not yet appear in the list of leading manufacturers.

Even so, imported products are taking an increasing share of the UK market. Euromonitor estimates that between 1980 and 1984 the value of UK-made products on sale fell from £75m to £51m at manufacturer's selling prices. Imports "hedged" with British makers' names or trade marks rose from £32m to £75m and imported brands increased from £56m to £96m.

The small electrical appliance report, Euromonitor Publications, 87-89 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5GU. £22.50.

Renewal season gets off to cautious start

BY JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

REINSURANCE experts in London have been predicting over the past two months that there is likely to be a radical change in their business cycle and the portfolio of business that they underwrite.

The market in London represents an important centre for reinsurance capacity.

The Lloyd's insurance community accounts for nearly 10 per cent of world reinsurance capacity and leading London reinsurance companies and other reinsurance carriers bring the City's overall market share to more than 20 per cent of a \$40bn (£27bn) industry.

The trends in the reinsurance community are followed closely by insurance specialists, for whatever happens in the reinsurance community can have a direct bearing on the trends in the general insurance industry.

However, these moves have met with limited success in forcing the primary insurers to increase their rates.

Underwriters have noted that the most significant change in the reinsurance market has taken place on US casualty business and world-wide liability business. Professional indemnity business, medical and hospital malpractice, products liability and many third party liability insurances were becoming almost impossible to insure in the US because of the size of claims.

Elsewhere, in the reinsurance market there have been shortages of capacity for motor and third party excess of loss reinsurance contracts covering unlimited claims. Layers of reinsurance agreed with fixed limits, however, could still be placed with some success.

In spite of the improving trends, many reinsurers are worried that the effects of the previous downturn on the insurance and reinsurance cycle will remain with the industry for some time. They argue that large "catastrophe" claims from previous hurricane damage to property in the US, past severe winter weather damage, large liability claims on asbestos and other liability losses have still to work their way through the insurance and reinsurance systems.

"We are beginning to turn the market round," said one underwriter, "but there is an awful long way to go because we have slipped back too far."

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UK NEWS

Highland Express airline set for maiden flight

BY MARK MEREDITH, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

HIGHLAND EXPRESS, a one-jumbo, 238-seat transatlantic airline based at Prestwick Airport in Scotland, prepared for takeoff yesterday.

Mr Randolph Fields, a 33-year-old US millionaire lawyer launched his airline at a reception in Glasgow. Highland Express received its licence from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) last Thursday and plans to begin regular flights to Canada and the US from Prestwick, Stansted (north of London) and Birmingham airports on June 1.

The airline will be the first known to make use of government aid in the form of regional assistance grants and to have raised funds through the tax-efficient Business Expansion Scheme.

The Industry Department for Scotland has provided £1m in start-up support in the form of selective assistance based on an initial 200 jobs to be created at Prestwick airport; and a further £1m will be gen-

erated with further jobs. An additional £750,000 comes from other government agencies.

The new airline will help to revive the fortunes of Prestwick, which is one of Britain's least-used airports with only two scheduled passenger carriers, Air Canada and Northwest Orient.

A prospectus issued yesterday by Mr Field's financial advisers, Parsons and Company in Glasgow, seeks to raise £2.5m in share capital. Mr Fields has put up a further £1m, half of which is in cash, and the other half in guarantees.

Mr Fields told a press conference that he wanted the small investor to have an opportunity to take part in his share issue. Investors spending £3,000 for 5,000 shares will be allowed one free return flight a year. Investors buying 40,000 shares will be permitted unlimited return trips based on available space.

Mr Fields is a former partner with Mr Richard Branson in the

Virgin Airlines airline. He gave up his directorship last year to set up Highland Express. The airline is to lease a refurbished Boeing 747 formerly used by American Airlines.

Highland Express forecasts a pre-tax profit of £100,000 in the first financial year to March 1987, rising to £1m in 1988.

Mr Fields has stated the future of his airline or regional passengers in Britain who do not want to use Heathrow, London, for their connections.

Making maximum use of the Boeing 747, Highland Express plans two flights a week to New York and two to Toronto from Stansted. It will fly twice a week to New York and once to Toronto from Birmingham.

All these summer time flights will pass through Prestwick, as will the four flights a week planned for winter flights to Toronto via New York.

Museums gain new funding incentives

BY ANTHONY THORNCROFT

BIG CHANGES in the funding of the UK's nine leading museums and art galleries, including the British Museum, the National Gallery and the Tate, were announced by the Government yesterday. In future, they will be able to keep for their own use revenue accumulated through admission charges, restaurants and book stalls.

In the past, extra income was deducted from the museums' annual government grant which acted as a disincentive to self-help. In 1982 House of Commons select committee recommended that the restriction be removed and, after discussions with the museums, the Government has approved the change.

At the same time, the Minister for the Arts, Mr Richard Luce, announced that for at least the next three years the museums' annual grants from the Government would not be affected by the new policy. But they could expect marginal annual improvements in their aid.

In another change, the Government has allowed the museums to carry over unspent money at the end of each financial year. This includes sums equivalent to 2 per cent of the annual grant and up to 10 per cent of annual receipts. In the past, any unspent money was clawed

back by the Government.

The Government estimates that out of a total subsidy of £50m for the nine museums in 1985-86, about £4m was accounted for by revenue that the museums had generated internally; although it says there was a natural incentive for the museums to minimise declared income.

The Government also announced

provisional maintenance and purchasing grants for the museums in 1986-87, which indicate, on average,

a 3.6 per cent increase over the current year. The figures are (with purchase grants in brackets): British Museum £11.9m (£1.49m); Victoria & Albert £3.79m (£1.145m); Science Museum £8.749m (£384,000); National Maritime £4.586m (£205,000); Imperial War Museum £4.318m (£128,000); National Gallery £3.936m (£2.75m); Tate Gallery £3.824m (£1.8m); National Portrait Gallery £1.5m (£310,000); Wallace Collection £977,000 (no purchasing grant).

Kevin Brown, spokesman for the Arts Council, is considering an increase in subsidies to save the threatened Sadler's Wells theatre in London. Mr Luce told the Commons. He said the Government had ruled out keeping Sadler's Wells open through direct funding.

Salomon prepares for move out of City

BY MICHAEL CASSELL, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

SALOMON BROTHERS, the Wall Street investment bank, has confirmed that it is moving from the City of London to new offices in London's Victoria, where it will establish the largest trading floor outside the City.

The decision represents one of the most important City defections yet seen by a player in London's financial services community. The agreement is about to be followed by confirmation that Citicorp will take the major part of Cottontail, a 312,000 sq ft office building at London Bridge City, a development on the south bank of the River Thames by St Martin's Property.

Salomon has signed a rental agreement worth almost £1m a year at Victoria Plaza in Buckingham Palace Road. It is a 193,000 sq ft office building funded by Greycoat Union and developed by Greycoat London, a company owned jointly by Greycoat Group and Sir Robert McAlpine.

Salomon, which has been negotiating with the developer for several months, will occupy 151,000 sq ft of floorspace and will pay al-

most £20 a sq ft for its accommodation, against top City rents of £35 a sq ft. The deal involves a 25-year lease but it is understood that a section of the floorspace will be subject to a break-clause, enabling the tenant to give up the accommodation at an earlier date.

Last week it was revealed that Dean Witter Reynolds, the securities subsidiary of Sears, Roebuck, had pulled out of negotiations to occupy the remainder of the building. Greycoat said it expected to fill the space within "the next few weeks."

Salomon is expected to announce full details of its plans for Victoria Plaza tomorrow, but they are known to include a one-level trading floor of around 50,000 sq ft, created by filling in two atriums that formed part of the building's original design.

The decision means that Greycoat can proceed with plans for the 350,000 sq ft second phase of the Plaza project for which full planning consent has been obtained.

The building could be completed within four years and it is known that Comoco, the oil group, is interested in taking the entire property.

Channel 5 launches new video venture

BY RAYMOND SHODDY

THE BATTLE for video film sales is about to intensify with the launch yesterday of Channel 5 - a video label which plans to market pre-recorded videos as if they were paperback books.

Classic films such as Citizen Kane, Fort Apache and Top Hat, music videos and children's entertainment are going to be offered at prices ranging from £5.99 to £9.99.

Channel 5 is a joint venture between Heron International, the diversified private group, and Polygram International, the record music company.

Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron, said yesterday he believed the new video venture would have a turnover of about £25m in its first year.

Between them the two groups have access to a library of 600 to 700 films. Heron and Polygram also announced yesterday that they had acquired Precision Vision from BBC to add to its video

tapes. Mr Ronson said that plans to launch Channel 5 was one of the reasons why he had been a serious, but unsuccessful, bidder at the end of last year for Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment, which has a library of more than 1,000 films.

The first 50 titles to be marketed under the Channel 5 label will go on sale next month in retail outlets in the London area and will spread to the rest of the UK within the next six months.

Companies such as Carvelor, the supermarket group, and Woolworth have already found in recent months that reasonably priced videos sell well. Woolworth is believed to have sold 700,000 Video Collection tapes in the past five months.

Mr Steve Brady, managing director of Heron Home Entertainment, believes that by 1987 more money will be spent on buying videos than renting them.

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TECHNOLOGY

Don't call us, we'll call you —in mid-flight

BRITISH AIRWAYS expects early next year to become the first European airline to offer passengers an air-to-ground telephone service using advanced satellite communications technology.

Initially, the service will be operated on a trial basis on three of BA's Boeing 747 jumbo jets. It will enable passengers flying over Europe, the Atlantic, Africa and the Middle East to speak to telephone subscribers anywhere in the world.

A similar service already operates on US domestic flights using less sophisticated technology. In Europe, Mr Charlish says it also has plans to offer in-flight telephony though it gives no precise details. Air France is studying the idea.

The BA system will use a satellite stationed above the mid-Atlantic. This can send and receive signals over an area about 10,000 miles across, covering about one-third of the earth's surface.

The satellite belongs to the European Space Agency and is leased and operated by Inmarsat, the international marine and aeronautical satellite organisation, which will charge for channel time as it is used by BA.

Passengers will use a special

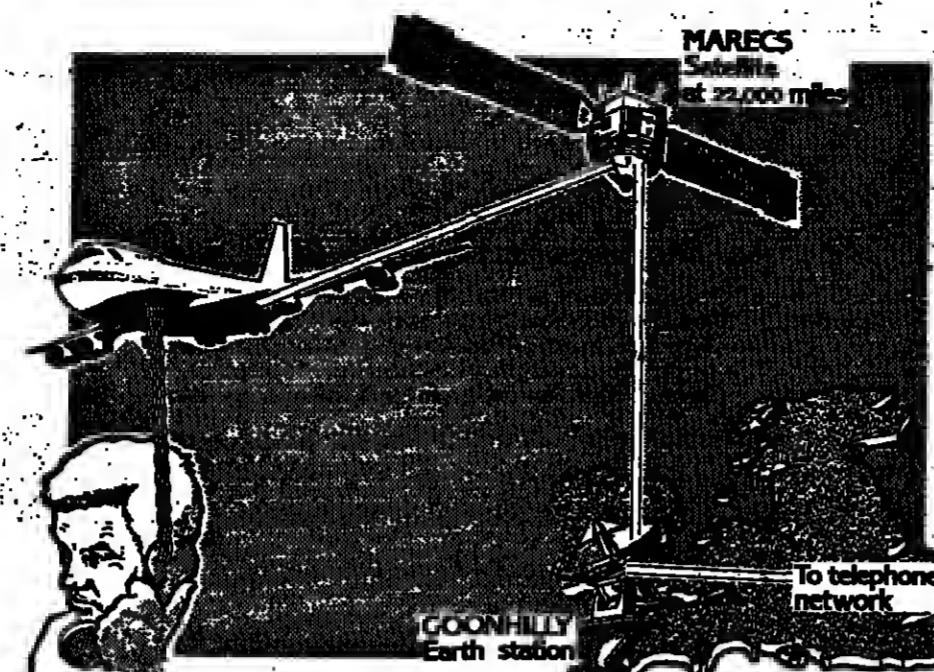
Geoffrey Charlish on a British Airways plan to offer an in-flight telephone service to passengers

airborne "phone box" with a cordless handset which they take back to their seats. The handset is released by inserting a credit card, the number of which is stored in the ground station for call charging.

Though it is technically possible to initiate calls in either direction, during the trials passengers will only be able to dial out. BA says the location of passengers on a specific flight is too complex and expensive for the first trials.

Such airborne units are already in use by 13 airlines in the US, supplied by Alfonso of Oak Brook, Illinois, which will also supply units to British Airways.

Passenger's calls will leave the aircraft at satellite radio frequencies from a special aerial which will probably be positioned above and behind the flight deck. The design of the



Passengers will be able to contact their destination, for example, to book hotels and cars

From there, the call will be manually re-dialed into the UK and European telephone networks by an operator.

Mr Jeff Maynard, telecommunications general manager at BA, plans other uses of the air-to-ground link apart from business telephone calls. For

example, passengers will be able to contact destination cities. In addition, bookings of hotels and cars, dial-in information databases in order to plan or modify their trip abroad.

The system may also be used for long-range air traffic control.

At the moment, although the aircraft captain knows his position within a fraction of a mile, there is no automatic way of making it known to the airline offices at the two ends of the journey.

The system will use digital transmission enabling it to send digital position information just as easily as speech, using data fed from the aircraft's inertial navigation system.

How the aircraft telephone is flying high in the US

In the US, in-flight telephone services have caught on rapidly since they were introduced 18 months ago. The services are available in 200 aircraft operated by 13 airlines. According to Alfone, the leading supplier of airborne and ground station equipment, for every 100 passengers making flights, over 20 calls will be made on average.

Alfone's next product is a "one per seat" telephone, with a cord, to that word do not have to get up to initiate a call.

Miss Gacken has recently been in Europe to drum up interest in the Alfone terrestrial approach.

But satellites seem a better prospect for Europe. With a multitude of national boundaries, the interworking of many small ground stations, "handing on" aircraft and changing could be difficult. Even so, Alfone says it could be overall 10 times more expensive than with ground stations costing \$100,000 each.

IT—and getting it right first time

Geoffrey Charlish on a technique based on software that may help companies to save money

A SOFTWARE-BASED technique called TetraTech that allows medium-to-large organisations to plan and develop a computerised information system, with some assurance of getting it right first time, has been devised by PA Computers and Telecommunications, a London consultancy.

Mr John Emberton, product manager, says up to half a company's spending on information technology can be saved "on re-development," a euphemism for correcting mistakes made the first time. About two-thirds of IT implementations overrun both the time and money originally allocated.

Alfone bonding by the car industry for a new generation of fuel-economy cars will require high-speed manufacturing. Dr Arrowsmith says Aston has studied new ways of pretreating aluminium at high speed, and shown the superiority of alternating current (AC) anodising to phosphoric acid.

The best bond strength obtained in this way is nearly double the strength of bonding between oxidised aluminium surfaces, which have been only disengaged and given a fine, dilute phosphoric acid bath. The spikes have been etched into a surface pattern.

PA claims TetraTech offers the potential for up to 30 per cent savings on development costs. It also promises to free much of the design spent on planning, and re-engineering, visualisation systems, an activity which accounts for 30 per cent

of total software development expenditure in the UK, according to PA.

Mr Emberton claims that in many cases, systems are planned despite little need rather than because of them. He says so far he has been "improving" methodology that will integrate the stand-alone capacity planning and similar tools already available.

TetraTech tackles the problems on a wide front, starting with the key business issues, working through systems analysis and design and ending with software development. Hardware planning runs in parallel and the system will identify appropriate hardware and software, plus material from the surface.

The item was placed in a large box which is vibrated while small chips are made from wood and other organic materials. The chips remove "small flakes" of surplus material from the surface.

The company has developed

the China

AMRA-FTN of Slough, Berkshire, has introduced "silence" machines which wash, clean and polish following completion of the firing process.

The items are placed in a

large box which is vibrated

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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Tuesday February 11 1986

Countertrade

Although falling oil prices have thrown many deals off balance, countertrade has managed to hold on to its share of the market

Price instability hits expansion

By FRANK GRAY

A SUDEN FALL in world oil prices, the collapse of numerous proposed deals, and severe financial reverses for several trading companies, have come as a jolt to the business of countertrading.

The world trading phenomenon of recent years, countertrade has owed its success and its growth to the world economic crisis, and the different ways in which it has affected both rich and poor countries.

The industrial nations of the West have been keen to sell their products to keep factories fully occupied but have found their traditional customers unable to raise the necessary hard cash.

Those countries have been equally anxious to acquire western goods in many cases in order to modernise their own industries. The answer has been to exchange—resources such as oil, or relatively low technology products, one way, industrial and consumer goods the other.

This growth has now been checked, however, by the difficulties encountered by some of the best-known practitioners of countertrade.

Nowhere was this more sharply underlined than in the case of General Dynamics, the US defence contractor, which has been

the Voest-Alpine steel group, and Merz, a trading unit of Chemie Linz, have suffered heavy losses in connection with oil barter deals with Iran.

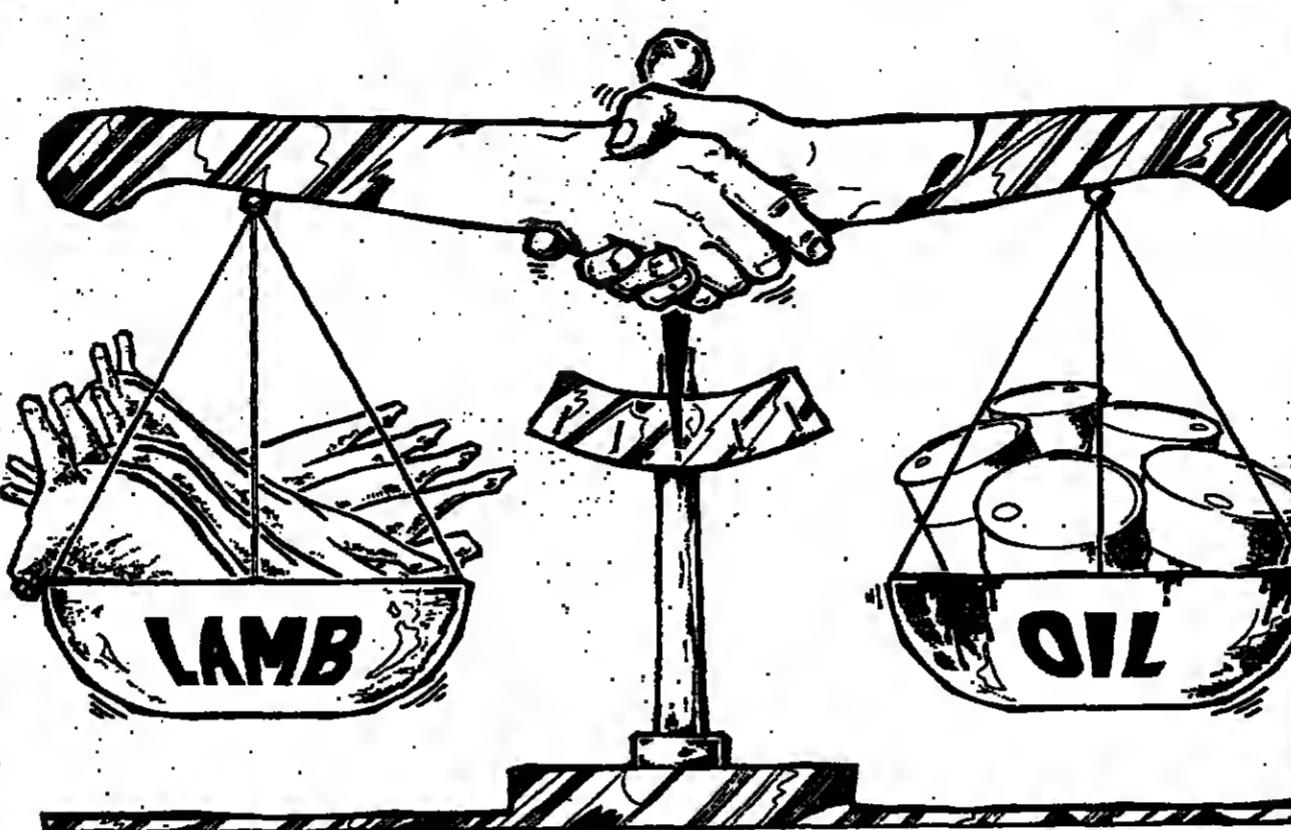
In Nigeria, which emerged a few years ago as Africa's most aggressive user of countertrade, largely based on oil resources, numerous deals have been cancelled or suspended, as unworkable. For a time, the country's countertrade policy was put into abeyance and, only more recently, has it been cautiously reactivated.

Just as the oil price rises of the 1970s sparked the recession and gave impetus to the growth in barter, the sudden and sharp price fall is prompting widespread concern that oil may no longer be invulnerable as a tool in countertrade.

This unexpected reversal of fortune for oil barter specialists stems from the decision by the Opec members last year to end the two tiered price system—the so-called Opec official price which was deemed artificially high, and the real spot market price.

With this has come the end of the oil production quota, the existence of which through last year caused many producers to conclude millions of dollars in barter deals to circumvent their own self-imposed restrictions.

Nowhere was this more sharply underlined than in the case of General Dynamics, the US defence contractor, which has been



A New Zealand deal with Iran to export 100,000 tonnes of lamb in exchange for 5m barrels of oil is worth NZ\$300m (US\$160m)

does not affect other commodity deals where prices, while low, are far more easy to predict. Yet, while the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Gatt and other opponents of countertrade can take satisfaction that some of the dynamism has gone out of the practice, the fact remains that its growth potential is strong.

It is abetted by the halting recovery of the Western economies, lack of a cohesive programme to resolve the Third World debt crises, and the ongoing weakness of the non-oil commodities, many of which are the sole items of trade for developing countries.

In recent months, Bank of America, in P-15 figures, reported that General Dynamics of the US continued to trade "with political concern" but that

Pakistan, which has long countenanced bartering on an unofficial basis, is now encouraging several Western trading companies to use countertrade to improve the quality and balance of its trade.

Greece, with the support of its banking community, has set up an organisation to handle countertrade.

In some South American countries, such as Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil, an increasing number of state or large private companies are using reciprocity to lever when concluding deals with foreign suppliers.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Turkey, where a long gap surrounding the supply of oil has been filled by US defence contractors who have agreed to supply some \$2.7bn in transactions to their customers.

Political concern has been

voiced in Washington about the effects and the loss of US technical leadership through technology transfer abroad, and this has prompted a series of ongoing hearings by the House banking sub-committee.

The countertrade involvement of the US—nominally an opponent—was underlined in a recent International Trade Commission report. The report said that in 1984 alone some \$7.1bn in sales agreements involved countertrade, of which military related exports amounted to \$5.5bn.

The countertrade obligations incurred as a result of those deals required US companies to handle some \$2.7bn in transactions to their customers.

Political concern has been

to purchase goods from overseas customers. Indeed, it was the US offset programme, begun in the early 1950s, that provided the basis for its subsequent handling of countertrade.

Mr Joel Johnson, a vice-president of the American League for Exports and Security Assistance, sought to discourage Washington's involvement in setting policy for his group's members, which include the big aerospace concerns. While cash-for-goods was attractive, companies had to be selective.

Any effort to allay the fears of countertraders would have to be done on a multilateral basis, and not just a unilateral attempt to "fix" something the US deemed was wrong. He added that information about offset was sensitive and any government mishandling of it "would whet the appetites of foreign customers for even more . . ."

One of the main hurdles the system still has to overcome, however, is the continued opposition of the international economic establishment.

In a report issued last year, OECD found that countertrade accounted for just 5 per cent of world trade, that is about \$80bn. While the figure is generally conceded as far too modest by many trading organisations, the OECD concedes that the practice has grown sharply. It notes that, from the company point of view, the use of countertrade, or more simply reciprocal trading, to help win an export order, has in appeal.

OECD, nevertheless, sees dangers to the world trading system from too widespread a growth in the practice.

Gatt's case, too, is that bilateralism distorts the normal growth of trade and that it often perpetuates inefficiencies in a specific nation's trading industries.

Even worse, it excludes non-participating countries from expanding their trade and often locks countries into long-term and disadvantageous trading patterns, as is common within Comecon or among certain western nations, such as Finland, which trade heavily with the Comecon bloc.

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"Substituting discriminatory, bureaucratic decision-making, for the impersonal workings of market forces may buy some peace in the short run, but only at a heavy cost in terms of its impact on the medium-term prospects for friendly commercial and political relations," says the Gatt report.

The long-term professionals in the business privately agree with the Gatt's concern. But they point out that countertrade will not go away as long as there is a debt crisis and as long as a vast part of the world is devoted to centralised planning with all the associated problems of lack of convertible currencies.

As a British Trade Department official recently told a trade seminar, it was perilous to be too sanctimonious about so-called pure trade. Was not money itself a violation commodity, he asked? And were not the money merchants responsible for much of the Third World debt problem?

"Now they find the costs of repaying or refinancing seriously affected by demands for this commodity outside their control—such as the US budget deficit."

"The purveyors of money have a selling job to do in many parts of the world today," he said. "There is a confidence gap to be made up."

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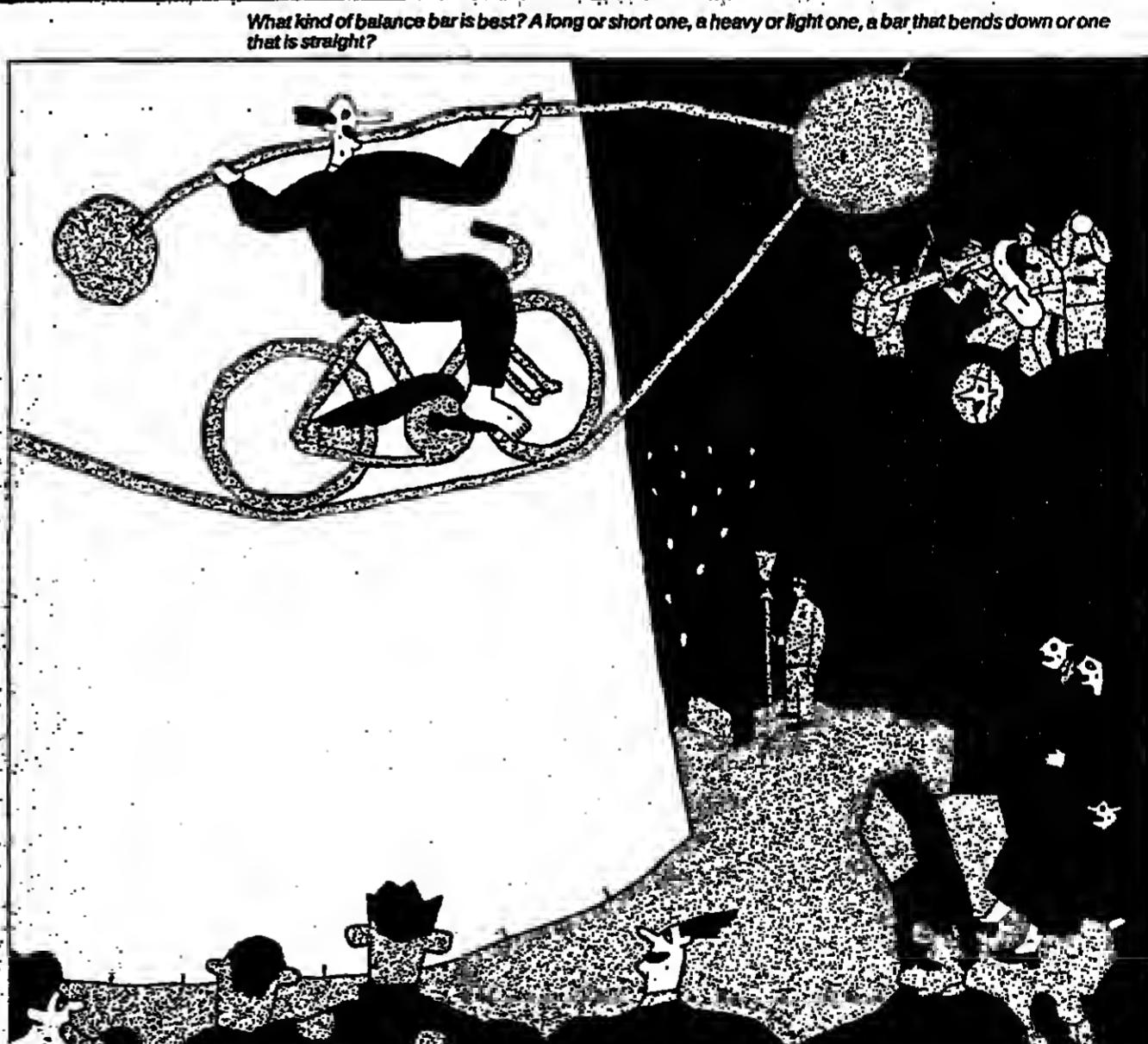
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More careful scrutiny of the big deal

View from the City

FRANK GRAY

BRITISH BANKERS and traders specialising in countertrade are in virtually unanimous agreement that the chaos that accompanied the growth in the worldwide use of barter in the first part of this decade has now given way to a period of welcome maturity.

This levelling off is reflected in both the higher quality of inquiries they are receiving from would-be customers and in their own more sensible screening of proposals for countertrade deals.

At the same time, while the market continued to show growth in 1985, a certain shaking out is occurring that is seeing many trading organisations severely curtail their exposure in what is an intriguing but sometimes unremunerative trade practice.

"What we have seen in the last year is a greater degree of professionalism in handling countertrade proposals," says Mr Alan Lingier, the countertrade manager for Lloyds Bank. "We are much more swift to say no to deals that we do not think will happen."

We estimate that about one in 20 proposals deals stands a chance of taking off. The ratio used to be much higher."

To a large extent, the changed trader / customer approach has been facilitated by the countless conferences throughout the industrialised world in recent years dealing with the growth in countertrade, which is variously gauged to account for between 5 per cent and 30 per cent of all world trade.

"Any business with capable management is now aware of countertrade and what it entails," notes Mr Colin Comerly, National Westminster Bank's countertrade specialist. "This is not to say that they have in-house teams themselves to deal with it but they know better than ever where to go for help."

One indicator of the maturation of the disappearance of what in the trade is known as the "dizzy hunter," the trader who proposes the particularly zany deal, so many of which added colour to the early days of the barter boom.

Some proposals have just enough scope to merit actually opening a file by a bank or trading organisation, such as a

recently proposed oil barter deal with Iraq that would have included British-made false teeth as an item of countertrade.

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, in fact concluded a deal involving shipment of Raleigh bicycles to Zanzibar in exchange for textile products.

Midland Bank's UK and Viennese countertrading divisions combined to help put through a film boiler export deal to Malta by Foster Wheeler UK. The deal required another UK company to step up exports of UK coal.

Many countertrade specialists say that such deals remain tantalising and that it sometimes takes an effort of will to say no to them at an early stage.

Bankers, as opposed to the specialised trading companies, feel comfortable with deals ranging anywhere between \$1m and £10m. Often they are smaller, particularly if they involve trade in Comecon, an area of speciality especially

Countertrade 2

strong with Kleinwort Benson, which is in partner with Polish and Italian banking interests in Centro Bank of Austria, a Comecon specialist.

Mr John Burge, Kleinwort Benson's countertrade manager, says Comecon has always provided steady business, but the real spur is in developing new markets.

Indonesia, for example, was a focus of worldwide attention a few years ago when it formally established a national countertrade agency for non-oil goods except oil. Business there has now become more regular, and focus instead is shifting to other markets, such as Malaysia where countertrade is becoming obligatory in many deals.

The view is shared by Mr Ed Miller of MG Services, the London-based countertrading arm of the Metallgesellschaft metals group of Frankfurt. His company expects to participate this month in a countertrade policy being formulated by the Government of Pakistan, where

trade is in chronic deficit.

Despite problems in Latin America, many countries there are still deemed attractive for countertrade. Brazil has no national government policy but many state-owned companies do have policies "and they implement them," says Mr Miller.

China, probably the most intensively tantalising market among the countertrading fraternity, is also sharpening its expertise. Decentralisation of trading responsibilities to some of China's regions should facilitate the growth of countertrade.

Some Oil Ministers have been effective in providing consultancy facilities for various national interests, which works as a nice flip should actual structuring of formal deals prove less successful.

Big trading companies such as MG Services see banks as basically support services, particularly in administration and documentation of deals such as handling of letters of credit. Clearing banks often

perceive themselves as capable of being mainstream traders.

Merchant banks express envy at the clearer's because of their ability to draw on the resources of their export finance departments.

"Merchant banks basically must be profitable on specific deals and we cannot allow our countertrade operations to run at a commercial loss," says Mr John Cheetham of Samuel Montagu.

While London has emerged as one of the premier centres for countertrade, it is generally conceded that most business involves non-UK concerns.

Some 80 per cent of British exports is done on open account—basically cash for goods—a figure that has remained constant for some years, said one banker. "This would indicate that not much new business is coming out of the UK."

The surfeit of countertrading organisations or the expansion of existing trading units that

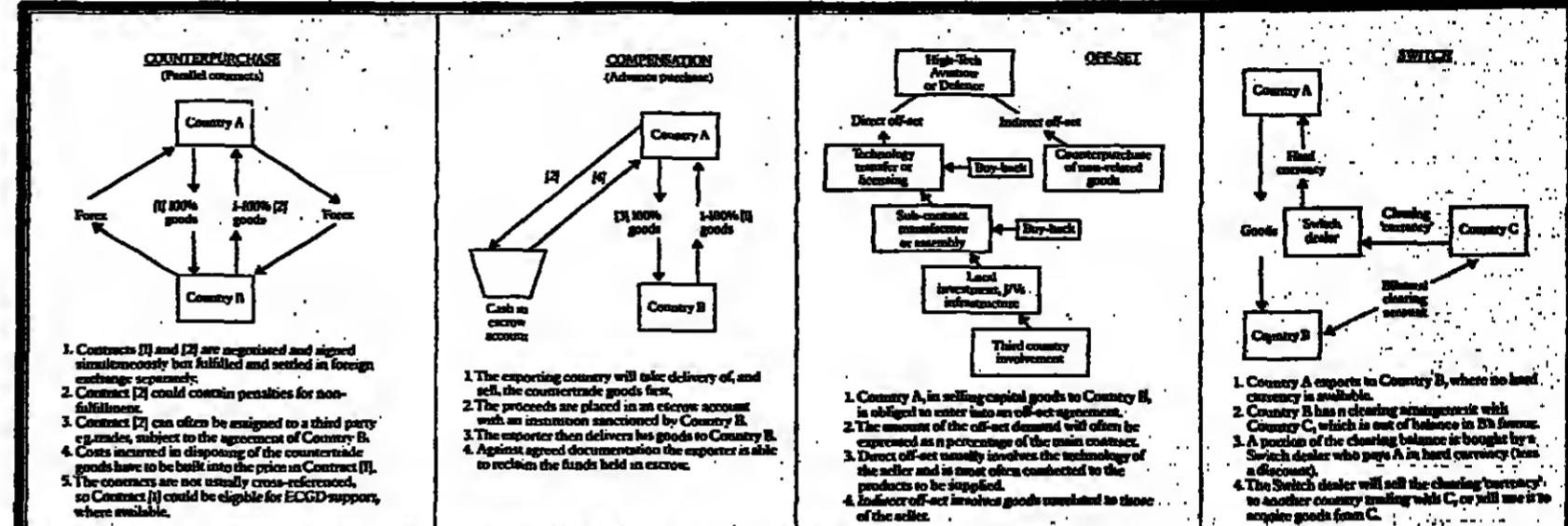
occurred during the height of the recession has been scaled back in the last year.

The London office of Phillip Brothers, the US trading company, has had its staff cut sharply in the last year since its takeover of Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank. Belt-tightening on a smaller scale has affected the London countertrade sections of Lazard Brothers, the UK merchant bank, and Citizens

These are sufficient reasons why a cautious approach to countertrade is preferred to the more adventurous approach.

Mr Roy Bracher of Manufacturers Hanover, the US bank with London as its countertrade base, says: "Barter must support the mainstream trading interest of the bank, and this is one reason why one should not go off tangents."

"It is the best to remain lean and country-specific, and not try and conquer the world."



Source: BARCLAYS

The following is a digest

of definitions describing types of transactions:

• **BARTER:** A straightforward exchange of an exporter's goods for the goods and services supplied by the importer. Cash is not a major component except for commissions and service fees.

• **COUNTERPURCHASE:** Requires the exporter to accept part payment for his imports in goods. Cash is usually the major consideration, but the swapping of goods is crucial to completion of the deal.

• **BUY-BACK:** Regularly used in trade with the centralised economies, it applies often to projects whose output will be used to finance the deal. It is often used in markets deemed by the exporter to be strategically important over the long term.

• **OFFSET:** Frequently used in large transactions among industrialised countries or between industrialised and developing countries and requires the exporter, usually military or civil defence equipment, to make investments in the client country in terms of plant, components or after-

market industries, to "offset" the cost of the goods sold.

• **SWITCH:** Used in correcting imbalances in long-term bilateral arrangements and involving a swap between buyers and sellers. It requires maximum skill and care to be provided by multinational trading houses.

• **EVIDENCE ACCOUNTS:** Enables the exporter to debt his own counter-purchased imports and credit his exports over a period of time, rather than counter-purchasing goods on an item-by-item basis to match the goods exported.

most East European countries. Despite hopes for further growth, Vienna's bankers and traders are increasingly diversifying their markets, using the experience gained in Eastern Europe to develop new business in the Far East and South America where countertrade is demanded of exporters.

Dr Alexander Waldstein from AWT, a subsidiary of the Creditanstalt Bankverein, says that five years ago Eastern Europe represented 80-90 per cent of his company's business.

"Today over 80 per cent of our business is outside Eastern Europe," he says.

Not everyone is as enthusiastic. One banker who prefers to remain anonymous has a more sceptical view. The only real growth area is in conferences and seminars dealing with countertrade and its problems, he says.

Expectations have also been raised by opportunities that may be offered by the new trade plans starting this year in the Comecon countries. According to bankers, trade and counterbalance are picking up with

boom years of the 1970s are over. There is a greater feeling of realism, says Dr Helmut Bohmovsky, from the Midland Export-Credit Bank. "Until 1981-82 many exporters wanted to penetrate the East European market and accepted all sorts of conditions," he says. "Inexperienced companies got into trouble while others found themselves increasingly unfavourable and expensive."

Many companies have now withdrawn from the East European market, closing down offices in Vienna or in Eastern Europe. He believes that there is a better appreciation of the difficulties and of the opportunities of the market. "Now there is a more realistic situation than in the 70s," he says.

Expectations have also been raised by opportunities that may be offered by the new trade plans starting this year in the Comecon countries. According to bankers, trade and counterbalance are picking up with

the spectre of heavy losses

Vienna

PATRICK BLUM

VIENNA'S REPUTATION as a leading centre of expertise for countertrade has taken a knock following the disastrous losses incurred last year by two of Austria's largest trading houses as a result of heavy speculation on the international oil markets.

The two companies, Voest-Alpine Intertrading, a subsidiary of Voest-Alpine, the large state-owned steel, engineering, electronics and trading group, and Merz, a subsidiary of the chemicals group Chemie Linz, another state-owned company, together posted losses in the region of Sch 8bn (\$1.7m) of which Sch 2.4bn were incurred by intertrading alone.

These spectacular losses however distort the true picture. There are numerous trading houses and banks in Vienna which continue to trade successfully and offer assistance in countertrading. They are already in the news and tend to dominate but they handle the smaller transactions which represent the broad and butter of the trading community.

Dr Herbert Stepić from Elerer and Unicra Trading, two sister companies, says that the big headline-catching deals which run into hundreds of millions are exceptional. "Most of the business is in far smaller transactions," he says.

Intertrading and Merz's losses appear to have been almost entirely the result of highly risky speculations in oil futures based on an early fall in oil prices. When the fall eventually came it was too late for the two companies.

A government investigation is still under way to determine exactly what went wrong, especially with Intertrading which suffered the most serious losses. Initial information suggests that the company sought unsuccessfully to boost its earnings by taking up short speculative positions. In addition, the company has faced problems with some of its large oil-for-goods countertrade contracts.

This was the case with a \$2bn oil for food and equipment barter deal signed with Iraq last year. The oil bought at high official prices could only be sold at a low because of declining oil prices. The loss could in part be compensated by commission earned from West European companies involved in the barter deal, but according to some officials the margin was too great to cover sufficiently the original price of the oil.

Although the Voest-Alpine group benefited from the deal

it appears to have been able to cover its losses by selling some of its oil futures, brought about by the end of November based on the premise that the price would fall. This had disastrous consequences since oil prices strengthened in the preceding period.

Some officials suggest that if the company had been able to hold out for a little longer it might instead have made a substantial profit, but it is not clear whether it was in a position to do that or whether it just panicked and sold earlier in order to cut its losses before closing its annual accounts for 1985.

Intertrading's rapid growth from a modest subsidiary set up seven years ago to handle Voest-Alpine's countertrade commitments to an international trading house ranking among the world's top six oil traders was not achieved without taking risks. Some officials say that it grew far too rapidly and that it had too few sufficiently experienced staff to handle such large business volumes.

Both companies have been ordered to stop all oil speculation and their managements have been replaced. If they need to enter oil barter deals in the future these will have to be done through OMV, the state-owned oil and gas company, government officials say.

Traders and bankers in Vienna believe that intertrading and Merz's misfortunes act as a timely reminder of the need for caution, but they are worried that the two companies' losses will damage Austria's reputation. Vienna, they say, is still attractive to companies because it is close to Eastern Europe, with easy access to East European markets and because of the expertise that has developed in the city over the years, especially in countertrade.

Nevertheless, Vienna, like competing centres elsewhere, has felt the effects of tougher international competition and of the economic downturn in many East European countries. Opinions vary about prospects but there is agreement that the

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Countertrade 3

Cautious line on future deals

Nigeria

PATTI WALDMER



Major-General Babangida: go ahead for cautious negotiations of oil swap negotiations

NEARLY SIX months after the military coup which brought Major-General Ibrahim Babangida to power in Nigeria on a platform which included opposition to countertrade, the Government has given the go-ahead to the cautious resumption of the oil swap negotiations which so preoccupied business men and foreign commercial attachés in Lagos during the first half of 1985.

This time last year, there was little caution in evidence either on the part of Nigeria's eager negotiators (some of whom have since been accused of corruption) or on the part of the foreign companies and embassies which hurried to gear a share in West Africa's largest market.

The result was that Nigeria burned its fingers on countertrade, concluding over US\$1bn in swap deals which proved costly and, in some cases, impossible to operate.

Conceived as a method for tiding Nigeria over a period of severe foreign exchange shortage and limited overseas credit, the strategy was quickly sabotaged by last summer's steep fall in oil prices, which made the rigid price provisions of some of the agreements unworkable.

Shortly after the August 27 coup, President Babangida launched a comprehensive review of the strategy, appointing a committee of leading businessmen and academics to assess the situation.

Committee concluded that Brazil, France, Austria and Italy, under the former military government of General Muhammadu Buhari, had recommended what role oil swaps could play in the economy.

The report of the committee, most of which was kept secret, confirmed President Babangida's post-coup criticisms of countertrade that many goods imported under oil swap deals, especially from Brazil, came in at exorbitant prices; and that former government officials and some private individuals have exploited the deals for their own financial gain.

Reluctant

Its final conclusion was a somewhat reluctant endorsement of the oil swap strategy. Given the severity of the economic crisis, the committee concluded: "It would be difficult to fault the use of countertrade as a short-term measure for national economic revival and sustained development."

With Nigeria's external payments position rapidly deteriorating as debt service climbs to unprecedented levels (as much as \$60 to \$80 per cent of export revenues in 1986, without rescheduling), the committee's view was that countertrade must continue albeit on a selective basis.

Countertrade deals would henceforth be sought to finance the completion of priority projects such as the \$2bn to \$3bn second phase of Nigeria's ambitious petrochemicals manufacturing programme, a \$5bn liquefied natural gas plant and the controversial US\$5bn Ajakalok steel project, the largest in black Africa.

Imports of essential raw materials, machinery and agricultural equipment would be given priority over food and consumer goods. CIO (completely knocked down) vehicle assembly kits would continue to be imported where their price would be verified as competitive; and attempts would be made to use crude oil to service some debts.

As far as possible, agreements would be on a government-to-government basis which would cut out the trading companies intermediaries blamed by the committee for charging excessive margins on the deals and swaps between Nigeria's subsidiary companies and their

foreign parents.

Three months after the committee presented its report, Nigeria's oil swap strategy remains in limbo, and escrow accounts set up under the Austrian and Brazilian deals are understood to be swollen with several hundred million dollars in funds which cannot be spent until the Government authorises goods to be imported.

None the less, trade officials at several Western embassies are gearing up for a new negotiating session following the appointment late last month of a new team of review committee charged with renegotiating the old deals and clearing the remaining escrow balances.

The terms of reference of the committee which is chaired by a prominent Lagos businessman and includes a journalist and a police commissioner, but has been criticised for lacking any members with oil markets or countertrade expertise, are broad: existing or suspended countertrade deals are to be renegotiated to ensure that Nigeria's interests are protected; a refund is to be demanded where goods imported are shown to have been overpriced; the balance in escrow accounts is to be used to finance imports; and the pricing of crude oil under the agreements is to be re-examined.

High margins

The agreement which is most likely to survive the committee's scrutiny, albeit in renegotiated form, is a US\$800m agreement with Costa Rica, the country's largest private trading house. Oil liftings under the deal have continued despite the withdrawal of the import licences issued for goods supplied by Costa Rica and a substantial escrow account balance has built up.

Costa Rica has been sharply criticised for charging high margins on goods such as sugar and chemicals, but trade officials believe that the arrangement will be fully reactivated.

The oil price provisions of the deal, which were determined on a net-back basis (a method which links the crude price to the price of refined products and thus represents a form of discounting), allowed the agreement to operate even when oil prices were low, and officials believe that such a pricing system will be adopted for future countertrade deals.

A US\$200m swap with Austria's West-Alpine Intertrading may also be looked on favourably. Liftings under the deal have been completed, but no goods have been imported, leaving an escrow account balance of US\$200m to be disposed of by the committee.

The \$300m agreement with SCOIA, a Paris-based trading house, which was suspended after only about a third of the oil had been lifted, is unlikely to be revived. But a US\$400m swap arrangement with Italy's Fiat group and ENI, the state oil company, which was close to conclusion just before the coup, may be reactivated if it can be used to finance construction of the planned natural gas pipeline from Eritrea to Lagos.

The important conclusion of the original countertrade committee is that, while Nigeria had been beaten by its partners in the complex negotiations leading to last year's deals and there must be serious doubts whether the new committee will prove a match for experienced negotiators from countries like Brazil and Austria, where countertrade is practised aggressively.

Nevertheless, the pressure to revive the oil swap strategy will only increase in the next few months as Nigeria enters the worst economic crisis since its independence.

Harder for the middleman

Opec

CHRIS CRAGG

COUNTERTRADING IS complicated enough without the problem of trying to calculate the value of oil or refined crude oil, or at least this would appear to be the lesson of the past six months in the oil-for-goods international barter business. With the exception of some eccentric deals like that between the UK and Saudi Arabia, exchanging crude for Tornado jet aircraft, the crude countertrade business has been on the decline.

There have been a number of revelations which suggest that it was never quite as large as was originally thought. The underlying logic for the business still remains for a variety of developing world purchases but for some developed world buyers the situation has changed.

The reason, of course, is the uncertainty surrounding the oil price. This has always been present as a constant threat to deals. A UK Talbot car company deal with Iran, worth a reported \$140m and signed in March 1985, went on ice late last year, long before the present price uncertainty.

Similarly, a deal in June between Libya and the Spanish bank for debt repayment worth \$80m fell through because Hispanoil refused to lift at the posted price, then \$4 a barrel above the spot market. However, failures of this kind were not the consequence of a reluctance to barter oil, nor to receive it in payment. They were the result of a failure, common in countertrade, to get the right deal and clear the remaining escrow balances.

The terms of reference of the committee which is chaired by a prominent Lagos businessman and includes a journalist and a police commissioner, but has been criticised for lacking any members with oil markets or countertrade expertise, are broad: existing or suspended countertrade deals are to be renegotiated to ensure that Nigeria's interests are protected; a refund is to be demanded where goods imported are shown to have been overpriced; the balance in escrow accounts is to be used to finance imports; and the pricing of crude oil under the agreements is to be re-examined.

The present situation in contrast is the result of a qualitative change in the structure of the oil market and a quantitative change in oil price volatility. Aside from a very obvious reluctance to take a substantial share in the risk of placing oil prices, which makes finding the right bargain even more difficult than before, purchasers are beginning to have doubts about disposal, particularly of large short-term quantities.

For their part, producers have discovered a mechanism for gaining longer term sales arrangements for cash, which has the unintended side effect of damaging the position of the countertrade purchaser, namely the "net-back" deal.

These structural changes in

the market have arisen directly out of Saudi Arabia's decision, first to adopt netback pricing and then to produce above quota to regain market share. As long as Opec could sustain losses of markets for the sake of prices, countertrading could make excellent sense for both partners in a deal. For some producers, it was a convenient way to sell more at a lower price; in short to cheat against quota. This explains Opec's antagonism.

For purchasers, provided that price volatility remained within the plus or minus \$2 a barrel range, it was a convenient way of selling goods that would not otherwise have been sold at all. The risk remained within the bounds of negotiation.

Terminated

Saudi Arabia's netback arrangements terminated these conditions. By discounting prices against oil product sales in the receiving country and against transport costs, with an element of spot Rotterdam product related pricing thrown in, the Saudis gave Opec a sudden dose of market-related pricing, at least in the short term. The impact of this was to force oil brokers to build up, but the strategy behind it should not be underestimated, in spite of the element of overkill which commentators now detect.

Broader this was to utilise netback deals to recapture the downstream end of the European oil market; the area where they had lost most market share. In doing so they have now directed 1.7m barrels a day of crude direct to refiners, displacing North European spot priced crude. North Sea spot prices plummeted as a result.

The crucial fact about netback pricing is that it involves an agreement between a producer and a consumer without the intervention of the spot market, except in so far as spot product prices regulate the agreement. Such deals cut out the middleman. Consequently Saudi Arabia's advantages as a source of oil for consumer goods has been banned.

Nigeria perhaps represents a problem that has always faced those trying to calculate the oil barter trade, namely that deals under negotiation are frequently reported, deals signed and deals terminated are never reported.

Trade in oil extremely risky for the purchaser because of pricing volatility, this also puts him firmly in the hands of his local refiner. Assuming that he has a specific deal, the refiner can be as erratic as he pleases, leaving the crude purchaser to the tender mercies of the spot market.

While specialist oil brokers have developed to make the sale easier, purchasers increasingly need some prospect of sale, preferably a refiner with a specific need, before doing business. (A good example of this is the agreement between two Italian companies, Aramco, a refiner, and Dammi Engineering. They swapped 350,000 barrels of Algerian crude for a wire factory, late last year.)

The company in any case had become suspicious of countertrade arrangements. The new government of General Sani Abacha attacked the idea immediately it arrived in power.

A committee was set up to renegotiate existing contracts, determine the type of product to be granted import licences, and determine normal market prices for the imported goods.

The committee met for the first time on January 27 and gave a pre-shipment quality inspection for all countertraded goods, plus an arrangement for managing all oil accounts. Currently the countertrade system smacks of corruption in Nigerian eyes. The exchange of oil for consumer goods has been banned.

Given that the Opec pricing and production rules had been disregarded, there was no longer the quota or price secrecy which had attached to countertrade. The best way to protect market share against Saudi pressure was to join the new marketing mechanism. Besides, the netback business has its advantages as a way to sell oil: the buyer pays cash. Even if the cash is less than the official contract price, defined by Opec, the value of countertraded oil did not reach a barrel.

This is not to say that Iran is not still in the countertrade business, although it increasingly attracts the anger of the national oil company (NIOC). The Iranian arm, Vopco, the Scandinavian Trading Company, have a year-long contract for 25,000-30,000 b/d, and another Swedish consortium, Sukab, reportedly have a 150,000 b/d contract with NIOC until August this year.

Voest-Alpine Intertrading still has a deal worth apparently \$30m in food/oil and chemicals to the food suppliers 10 per cent for the privilege of supply, although it is noticeable that the Austrian company did not make a profit last year.

Nigeria reacted slightly differently to Saudi action than Iran. Netback deals are only now being negotiated. Instead

of a deal with access to equity crude in the country were given incentives deals which guaranteed them a rough \$2 a barrel margin. This maximised the activity of the oil majors in the country by a kind of universal netback arrangement which allowed the companies to agree to lift 100 per cent of their own crude.

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Cheap oil

Elsewhere, Iraq still remains a formidable countertrader paying its Italian debt obligations of \$300m for 1985 in oil. It has also reportedly reached agreement with the Canadians on a 50,000 b/d deal, starting in January 1986 and scheduled to last three years. If this is correct and the value placed upon it of \$800m, then the Iraqis might have been better off through netback arrangements. The price works out at \$16.40 a barrel.

Iraq still give Syria remarkably cheap oil for political services in keeping one of Iraq's major export lines shut. Mexico and Venezuela still supply the Caribbean and central America under the debt-related San Jose deal. The Soviet Union still sends its gas pipelines to Czechoslovakia in return for gas. None the less the oil barter business has undergone a sea change. If Opec regains its discipline, it may come back. But not for some time to come.

Nigeria reacted slightly differently to Saudi action than Iran. Netback deals are only now being negotiated. Instead

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Expertise in short supply

China
DAVID DOODWELL

McDONNELL DOUGLAS, the US aircraft manufacturer, in April last year heralded a deal that had been six years in the making—namely, a Shanghai Aviation Industrial Corporation (SAIC) of 25 of its MD-82 twin-jets in kit form in a rare cash transaction worth an estimated \$600m.

The co-production deal was rare because it was not a joint venture—a common means used by Chinese companies to reduce the foreign exchange cost of establishing a venture—and because the Chinese Government was apparently willing to pay cash despite its acute shortage of foreign exchange.

These points are some of the questions answered last month when a team of McDonnell Douglas executives arrived in Shanghai to design a countertrade programme as a "complement" to the MD-contract that will help China to recoup some of the foreign exchange costs involved.

A Hong Kong-based expert in countertrade, musing on how successful the comparatively inexperienced McDonnell Douglas team will be in generating exports for China on such a large scale, commented: "This is just one more aspect of the fierce competition over exports to China. Once upon a time, they would compete on price and product specification. Countertrade proposals are just one more field of competition, and without them chances of winning a contract are that much less."

Much attention has been given recently to the emerging importance of countertrade in China. In Shanghai alone, joint ventures agreed with Foxboro, the US control systems manufacturer, Volkswagen, the German car manufacturer, SM of the US, making industrial tape and other products.

Schindler of Switzerland, making lifts, and Peninsula Woofex, the Hong Kong knife wear group controlled by C. H. Tang, are among ventures that embody complex countertrade arrangements upon which success or failure is likely to depend.

While private sector deals such as these are comparatively new, countertrade in its broadest sense is widespread,

Countertrade is substantial on a government-to-government basis, not just with the Soviet bloc but with Brazil and a growing number of cash-strapped developing countries.

Trade with the Soviet Union was agreed at \$2.1bn in 1985, compared with \$1.2bn in 1984. Countertrade with other East European countries has grown similarly fast.

Countertrade arrangements are commonly used for commodity trade, arms sales, and as part of offset, buy-back and compensation agreements linked with investments or joint ventures in China.

If one includes all of these as countertrade, then Chinese suggestions that it accounts for about one third of total trade may be plausible. According to Chinese customs statistics, China's total trade in 1985 amounted to US\$20.1bn, suggesting counter-trade amounting to over US\$6bn.

This has focused attention on Hong Kong as a base for countertrading operations.

Most recently the creation of a countertrade unit in Peking's Economic Relations and Trade (Mofart), headed by Mrs Ye Linyun has

made it clear that the Chinese Government is keen to explore countertrade potential.

There are a number of reasons why this has occurred. Most important, perhaps, is China's acute shortage of foreign exchange. According to Customs figures, the trade deficit in 1985 soared to \$13.7bn from \$1.4bn in 1984, suggesting that reserves amounting to about \$16bn at the end of 1985 may have been seriously eroded.

Equally important, according to Peking's hope that countertrade arrangements can help China to break into protected markets and help it to win a better share of international trade restricted by quota and other protectionist devices.

A conspicuous target here is Japan, which in 1985 had a trade surplus of more than \$6bn with China. Chinese officials see Japan's "sogo shosha"—the vertically integrated trading houses like C. Itoh, Misui and Mitsubishi—as tailor-made for facilitating countertrade.

China has been under pressure from Third World trading partners both to boost bilateral trade, and to accept countertrade terms. This has given Peking headaches, since it has little knowledge of the raw materials and unsophisticated manufacturers from these countries.

These in fact are often in direct competition with China's own exports.

One response has been to introduce "tolling" arrangements where, for example, Chinese exports can be matched against raw sugar, which is refined in China and then re-exported as refined sugar to Western markets.

Since many Chinese exporters have only recently opened their doors on the international market, they often lack international marketing and distribution knowledge and networks. Countertrade deals are arranged through middlemen like Marine Pacific, a subsidiary of Continental Grain of the US, or MG Services, a partnership between Metalgeschäft of West Germany and Louis Dreyfus of France, can provide such expertise.

Chinese officials have also come to realize that they have a unique opportunity to win the co-operation of a foreign corporation in boosting their export efforts when they are negotiating a prospective foreign purchase. The McDonnell Douglas deal offers a vivid example of this.

Pragmatic

Unlike official attitudes in the Soviet bloc, the Chinese view of countertrade is thus highly pragmatic. Anything that can be sold for cash will be sold for cash. Traders say Chinese Government officials have a keen awareness of the value of a product and will only accept the added cost involved in a countertrade deal when simpler options are closed to them.

Countertrade is thus seen as a supplement to existing trade channels, intended to improve export performance at the margin, rather than provide any guiding principles for the conduct of foreign trade. The underlying motive is not to boost exports as such, but to finance necessary imports.

As a result, there are no signs of any institutional framework being provided that will make countertrade easier to conduct.

In fact, the entrenched vertical integration of China's import-export corporation has until now hindered the subtlety of transactions involved in countertrading that major traders like Jardine Matheson have countertrade on their "difficult" list.

The devolution of decision-making power over foreign trade from Peking to a plethora

Low prices intensify competition

THEILLS of the world's commodity markets show no sign of being cured, and in many cases are getting decidedly worse.

Virtually every important soft commodity or base metal market on which the developing countries depend is suffering from a mixture of low prices, stagnant markets and increasingly cut-throat competition.

This gloomy outlook has provided a fertile breeding ground for all manner of deviations from the multilateral trading system, including countertrade, over the past few years.

As far as the soft commodities—which are probably used to a greater extent in countertrade than the metals—are concerned, the picture is in many cases even more depressing.

To take a few examples:

• World free-market sugar prices fell to an all-time low in real terms last June, depressed by "dumping" by big exporters like the EEC, increasing protectionism in the US.

Commodities

ANDREW GOWERS

and the maintenance by sub-sidy of excessive levels of production all over the world.

Although consumption is expected to outstrip production for the first time in years, the market continues to be overloaded by a huge surplus of sugar, which has been climbing steadily off the floors since last summer, but, it still remains well below the costs of production.

• Rubber prices have been on a steady slide, falling to their lowest level in three years in 1985 against a background of surplus production and sluggish consumption. That is bad news for the big growers in South-East Asia in particular.

• Cocoa prices—especially important for the economies of West African countries like the Ivory Coast and Ghana—have been weak throughout the season, though there was a slight upturn in late 1985.

• Tea prices—vital to India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Kenya, among others—have plunged precipitously from their peaks of 1984.

• Prices of the staple food crops, such as cereals, are also under heavy pressure because of a worsening trade war between big exporters like the EEC and the US. That might be good news for importers in Africa, for example, if they could afford even the reduced prices.

The list seems endless. Only coffee, in which prices have risen sharply in the last few months as a result of drought damage to the all-important Brazilian crop this year, provides a ray of hope for producers in Africa, Indonesia and Central America.

Even in that case, the producers' fears for the long term are that higher prices will stimulate a race to boost output—resulting eventually in another damaging price crash as happened in the late 1970s.

This goes to the heart of the problem in a way. Most of the soft commodities can now be produced in a wider range of countries than before, and advances in agricultural technology have boosted yields. So prices are in general less vulnerable to climatically—or politically-induced shortages—in one producing country—and even where they are, others will want to move in swiftly to fill the gap.

Strong links with Romania



Lord Wilson, director, and Mr Nigel Guimel, chairman and managing director of Rindalbourne: showing patient persistence

again, purchases by Rindalbourne of textiles and light industrial goods. The arrival of the first cargo of coal, comprising around 50,000 tonnes, is expected shortly—with other envisaged at monthly intervals thereafter.

Although it was hoped that Rindalbourne would be shipping sizeable amounts of UK coking coal under the terms of this agreement, the National Coal Board has since made it clear that it does not expect to have significant quantities of the required quality, Rank 301, available in the foreseeable future. Rindalbourne is, therefore, initially shipping US coal into Romania.

In constructing its general countertrade protocol with Romania—which the company is supporting with a recently negotiated \$100m credit—Rindalbourne has achieved the notable success of dealing across foreign trade organisations (FTOs). Countertrade arrangements with Romania have traditionally involved imports and exports being offset under the auspices of the same FTO. However, under the Rindalbourne Protocol, which involves several FTOs covering, for instance, chemicals, minerals and textiles, the trade flows must only balance globally, not sectorially, on a one-third-two-thirds basis.

In recent months, Rindalbourne has looked at a number of ideas within the context of its trading links with Romania. One, for instance, envisaged Rindalbourne possibly assisting Romania with the purchase of a South Wales coking coal pit with plans to the National Coal Board perhaps involving coal mined from the pit itself. However, the cost of re-opening of the mine proved prohibitive.

Another scheme, which may

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Countertrade 5

PROFILE: The Mediators

From hustling to bartering

IN ALL started for Richard Manney in 1966 with \$60, a public phone booth and lots of time—television time.

He was a young hustler, based in New Jersey, who had started his own business in 1956 at the age of 26, trading prizes in TV game shows in return for promotion credit and getting paid himself with extra merchandise. That had all come crashing down with the quiz show scandals of the late 1960s, but Mr Manney re-surfaced again, and in 1968 he founded The Mediators, a media broker, which took payment in the form of merchandise which was ingeniously turned to cash.

Mr Manney and a close associate, Mr Tom Settineri, adopted the concept of "cross-pollination" in marketing. Paid in excess merchandise which they undertook to sell outside of its regular distribution channels, they convinced manufacturers to carry food products and put up payment in the form of merchandise which was ingeniously turned to cash.

They built new distribution networks and entered the premiums and incentives business. By 1970, Mr Manney had earned his first million dollars.



Richard Manney: a \$450m a year countertrading company

The US

NANCY DUNNE

OFFICIALS OF Universal Satellite Corporation were ecstatic last year when they won exclusive rights to distribute their video projection devices to theatres in remote rural communities in China. The deal they figured to be worth \$5m to \$10m a year was almost off when last April the Chinese Government imposed a ban on hard currency imports, exchange restrictions on all but the most vital imports.

American traders are learning that there is only one way to do business in China these days and that is through countertrade. The Mediators, a leading American countertrade business, is even now in the process of swapping 30,000 Apple personal computers to the Chinese Government. In return they will probably get silk, coal or oil.

Universal Satellite, too, has now turned to countertrade for the first time in its history. Working through International Capital & Technology of New York and Hong Kong, an old hand at arranging swaps with the Chinese, a straight barter deal was arranged which would allow Peking to pay for the pro-

jectors with rice, cotton-seed oil and other commodities, which ITC will sell in the world market.

Mr Henry Schwartz, president of Usato, is so pleased that he is talking of arranging barter deals in South America, an area his company has been unable to penetrate in the past.

More and more US companies are turning to compete without it, are finding that countertrade is their deal making. According to Mr Richard Manney, president of The Mediators, countertrade now accounts for about 10 per cent of all American manufacturers' revenues. Within the next 10 years it will become the norm providing a third of all US manufacturers revenues, he says.

Overseas markets

"The US is no longer the golden marketplace it once was," says Mr Manney. "You buy no account of US consumers we buy no everything you produce."

Foreign countries have broken down our doors with better quality, more advanced goods at cheaper prices. It's increasingly vital that American companies do the same."

They must break into overseas markets any way they can, says Mr Manney, and countertrade is one of the ways to do it. Estimates of worldwide coun-

Non-military and military-related offsets

	1980	1982	1984
Sales agreements involving countertrade	3m	3m	3,800
Military-related (offsets)	8,558	732	5,880
Non-military	1,346	963	1,249
Total	8,414	1,715	7,139

Source: International Trade Commission

Countertrade obligations:

Military-related (offsets)	414	439	2,182
Non-military	467	478	530
Total	881	918	2,712

1980-84, imports resulting from non-offset countertrade totalled only \$1.8bn during the same period. Additional goods and services were either sold abroad, absorbed by foreign affiliates or sold to a trading company.

The majority of American businesses engaged in countertrade reported favourable to the ITC after their experience. They said that the deals had resulted in increased employment, sales and production efficiencies.

determining the relative value of commodities to be exchanged. "One party is often attempting to obtain higher value for its commodity than prevailing cash prices," the task force said.

Indonesia and Nigeria offered the US petroleum barter but both wanted higher than the Open prices, the task force said. Critics believe officials do not try very hard to conclude any deals, they philosophically oppose.

Here to stay

Individual government officials and American businessmen, however, insist that international barter is here to stay.

Mr Robert Copaken, an energy trade policy specialist in the energy department, urged the energy department, noting that Nigeria had renewed its commitment to countertrade, even though countertrade related corruption was an issue in the military coup last August.

An oil trader with Rudolf Wolff commodity brokers believes that countertrade in oil will be used to technology transfers with China and the USSR. If Americans do not recognise the inevitability of countertrade, says another analyst, then they will miss the boat on many a deal which could benefit the massive US trade deficit.

Brazil leads the way in the region

Latin America

ROBERT GRAHAM

Latin America Editor

BRAZIL REMAINS the most active proponent and exponent of countertrade in Latin America. With annual exports of nearly \$60bn, Brazil also happens to be the most successful exporting nation in the region with by far the largest range of products.

This position does not simply reflect the sheer size of Brazil and its economy serving a population of 130m. It also underlines its much greater dynamism and willingness to explore all avenues, even non-traditional ones, to promote exports.

Brazilian officials have never felt constrained by the "ideological" objections of the Treaty General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to countertrade. Before countertrade is regarded as a useful means of circumventing protectionism, international systems of commodity quotas and credit difficulties.

Nevertheless, 1985 saw a lessening of the tempo of countertrade deals by Brazil, and the trend seems to have been reflected more generally throughout Latin America, according to officials dealing with trade in the region. The same officials are cautious about being definite since there are no reliable statistics on countertrade and they freely admit to being often unaware of private sector deals, especially small-scale operations.

Austerity plans

Three main reasons are given for the lesser prominence in 1985 of countertrade. Firstly, the vast majority of Latin American governments have continued to operate or introduce tough austerity plans which have restricted domestic consumption, cut back public sector spending and penalised imports. Thus trade policies which have stimulated consumer imports, even if balanced by an equivalent export sale, have tended to be discouraged at the expense of hard currency earnings.

Secondly, the expansion of the US economy in 1984 absorbed considerable domestic capacity in Latin America and accounted for the principal increase in trade.

Thirdly, the sheer complexity of putting together countertrade packages, with attendant problems of bureaucratic delay and corruption, have continued to act as a disincentive, especially as most governments in the region have insisted that countertrade can only take place with non-traditional products.

For instance, Colombia's policy of refusing to allow countertrade deals with traditional products has been thoroughly vindicated by the sudden rise in the price of coffee in early January, 1986. Colombia also incidentally held out for a mainly cash transaction with Israel over exports of coal last year, even though the Israelis pushed hard for an exchange of goods.

The extent to which bureaucratic difficulties and the possibilities of corruption weigh against countertrade could well be determined by the fate of important deals between Brazil and Nigeria. Largely through countertrade, Brazil has become, within the last two years, one of the top five suppliers of the Nigerian market.

The big deals between the two countries began in 1984 based on

More companies turn to barter deals

The US

NANCY DUNNE

Non-military and military-related offsets

	1980	1982	1984
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Source: International Trade Commission

countertrade vary widely, because few governments collect or publish data specifically to identify such transactions. The most comprehensive recent study in the US on countertrade was drawn from an International Trade Commission survey of over 300 corporations representing over \$120bn in export sales in 1984.

The study estimated that almost \$5.5bn in total US exports resulted from countertrade (excluding offsets) arrangements during 1980-84. About \$4.6bn worth of goods and services were expected to be included in countertrade deals last year.

They must break into overseas markets any way they can, says Mr Manney, and countertrade is one of the ways to do it. Estimates of worldwide coun-

tries, which were among the most active in attempting to expand their countertrade were a minor element in the expansion of US countertrade.

The single most important product associated with export sales contracts involving countertrade during the four years of the ITC study was aerospace products. Other sectors with large involvement are communications, electronics and defence products.

Barely tolerated

While the US Commerce Department spends millions each year to promote trade, it barely tolerates countertrade. Yet according to the ITC the US has more than fourfold, during 1980-84, said the ITC, while such obligations with Asia more than tripled. Latin American

free traders complain, the barter proposals received in recent years founder because one party wishes to trade a commodity that the other does not need.

Mexico and the Dominican Republic both offered to swap oil for coal, a commodity the Administration has decided is no longer needed for the stockpile.

The value of US companies' countertrade (including offsets) obligations will have grown more than fourfold during 1980-84, said the ITC, while such obligations with Asia more than tripled. Latin American

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Mostly, the Administration's free traders complain, the barter proposals received in recent years founder because one party wishes to trade a commodity that the other does not need.

Mexico and the Dominican Republic both offered to swap oil for coal, a commodity the Administration has decided is no longer needed for the stockpile.

In a recent report to Congress, an Administration task force between said problems have arisen in

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The company is engaged in the purchase, re-sale and hire of rail, sleepers and ancillary railway items.

Assets include:

- * Leasehold premises
- * Plant and machinery
- * Motor vehicles
- * Stock and work in progress
- * Order book

Enquiries to: J. A. G. Alexander Esq.
Joint Receiver and Manager

KMG Thomson McLintock
70 Finsbury Pavement London EC2A 1SK
Tel. No. 01-920 9111

Enfield Industrial Engines Limited (in receivership)

Diesel marine engine and outdrive manufacturer located in Isle of Wight, for sale as a going concern.

Business includes 11,000 sq ft leasehold property plus all plant and machinery and substantial stocks. Estimated turnover £250,000.

For details please apply to the Joint Receiver and Manager: C. J. Barlow and J. M. Tredale Scottish Life House 14 New Road Southampton SO9 1ZG Tel: 0703 231005 Telex: 477735

International

FOR SALE OR MERGER

We are seeking on behalf of our industrial clients a suitable partner, who might support their efforts of expansion and rationalisation by a possible business combination.

Our clients are one of the leading counter producers in the world. The products can be used wherever counting, printing, measuring, controlling, automation are carried out—and not only in industrial applications.

On the other hand our clients activities are the production, sale and service of electronic weighing equipment for trade and industry, machinery for slicing and processing of food-stuffs, commercial refrigeration and freezing equipment, etc. Our clients are domiciled in Europe (EEC) and their reputation is outstanding.

If you should be interested in further details, we would appreciate very much, if you contact us confidentially.

BEG Unternehmensberatungsgesellschaft mbH
Elberfelder Strasse 2
D-4000 Dusseldorf 1

TOBACCO PROCESSING PLANT

The business and assets of Tabac Leaf Industries Limited a tobacco processing plant designed for the manufacture of handrolling and pipe tobaccos is offered for sale as a going concern.

- * The company operates from 2,500 sq ft of leasehold factory and office space in South Wales with easy access to M4 and M5
- * Full range of primary and packing equipment
- * Established European and north American markets
- * Established links with international leaf suppliers

For further information please contact the joint receivers:

Barry G. Mitchell or Peter L. Davies
PEAT MARWICK MITCHELL AND CO.,
Marlborough House,
Fitzalan Court, Fitzalan Road,
Cardiff CF2 1TE
Telephone: (0222) 462463 Telex: 477987

**PEAT
MARWICK**

Lawrence Preston (Electronics) Limited in Receivership

The business and assets of the above company are available for sale as a going concern. The company has been trading for six years as specialist PCB manufacturers and has built up a strong customer base throughout the country and undertakes work with skilled staff for well known customers within that industry.

The company currently trades from leasehold premises in Cottenham, Cambridge, Melbourn, Gwent and employs 60 persons. Turnover for the year to 30 June 1985 was £407,000 and approximately £261,000 for the six months ended 31 December 1985.

All enquiries should be addressed to:
C. J. Barlow, FCA
CORK GULLY
Mutley House
23 Princess Street
Plymouth PL1 2HE
Tel: 0752 606888

W. A. Souter & Son (Cowes) Limited

In Receivership

Yacht and shipbuilding business situated at Cowes, Isle of Wight, for sale as a going concern. The business operates from both a 3.83 acre site including 72,000 sq ft of covered yards with a 600 ft deep water frontage including marina facilities and leasehold premises of 11,700 sq ft with 125 ft water frontage.

For details please apply to the Joint Receiver and Manager: C. J. Barlow and M. J. Innes
CORK GULLY
Scottish Life House
14 New Road
Southampton SO9 1ZG Tel: 0703 331005 Telex: 477765

Cork Gully

Hurrell & Beardwell Ltd Motor Dealers in Essex

The Receiver and Manager offers for sale the business and assets of this company:

- Premises of 9,000 sq. ft. on site of approximately half an acre.
- Workshop, petrol forecourt, parts store, showroom and display area.
- Turnover approximately £3m per annum.

Further information can be obtained from P. R. Copp FCA FCCA, or P. Shipperton FCA (Ret'd) 8 Baker Street, London W1H 1DR. Telephone: 01-488 5588.

SH Stoy Hayward
A member of Horwath & Horwath International

CASTLE (GB) PLC (IN RECEIVERSHIP)

The joint Receivers offer for sale the business and assets as follows:

- * Castle Kitchens — Reading & Thornton Cleveleys Lancashire
- * Distribution Centres for Kitchen furniture
- * Freehold premises 37,000 sq ft
- * Leasehold premises 26,000 sq ft
- * Turnover £10.5m
- * 1113 employees
- * Commercial Vehicle Fleet

Castle Bathrooms — Aldridge, West Midlands

- * Distribution of Bathroom Equipment
- * Leasehold premises 34,000 sq ft
- * Turnover £2.3m 1985
- * 29 employees
- * 55 stockists

"Oliver" Appliances — Thornton Cleveleys Lancashire

- * Distribution of Domestic Appliances
- * Servicing Unit
- * Turnover £2.8m 1985
- * 15 employees

Offers are invited for the business and assets as a whole or in part. Further details are available from Grahame Wetts or Christopher Morris at the address below.

Touche Ross
The Business Partners

Box 500, Abbey House, 74 Mosley Street, Manchester M6 2AT.

Telephone: 061-228 3456. Telex: 656040 TRMANR G.

**BUSINESSES
FOR SALE
appears
TUESDAY**

Tyrrell Communications Group

The Business and Assets of
the group of companies are for sale

Information Display Division

- "Telestar", "Teleplex" and "Multidex" businesses
- Major supplier of information display systems to British Rail and airports in the U.K.
- Including rotating flats, dot matrix, VDU monitor and LCD systems
- Turnover £2.0 million

Telecommunications Division

- "Dateline"
- Suppliers of Miltel, NEC telecoms switching systems
- Turnover £2.0 million

The Group is based in 18,000 sq ft leasehold premises in London SE21.

Each division employs approximately 30 people.

For further information contact: N.G. Afshinian, Joint Receiver and Manager at the address below.

Touche Ross

33-34 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EW

Telephone: 01-405 8799. Telex: 261296 TRCHAN G.

MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS OF MEDICAL DISPOSABLES

The business is a DHSS approved supplier to Health Authorities throughout the UK. The company has spent substantial money in achieving DHSS approval. The company is C.I.M.F. and the business now has potential for considerable expansion.

Offered for sale are modern leasehold premises incorporating a Class II clean room, which is fully equipped with the stock and work in progress and an attractive customer base.

For further details, please contact: David Martin, Technical Services Centre, Loughboroug, High Wycombe, Bucks HP7 0RS. Tel: (0208) 296099

GRF 22000 modern freehold offices for sale or lease. Business completely computerised with potential for further expansion. Turnover £1.2m. Rent £10,000 per annum.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Tuesday February 11 1986

Moscow tests the West

THE Soviet Union continues to hold the centre stage in the propaganda debate on arms control. Barely three weeks after Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's sweeping proposals for a total, world-wide nuclear disarmament by the year 2000, Moscow appears to be offering an agreement on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) in Europe, which would be quite separate from the negotiations on strategic and space weapons. Insofar as these initiatives may indicate an untraditional flexibility in Moscow, they should be welcomed and carefully scrutinised by the West for whatever opportunities they may offer for progress in arms control. On the other hand, the Soviet position has clearly been devised to search out any possible rifts within the Atlantic Alliance: between Europe and the US, and between the nuclear and non-nuclear allies in Europe.

For this reason, intra-Alliance consultation will be even more important at this time and than they were during the abortive Euro-missile negotiations which collapsed in 1983. The US Administration is taking detailed soundings in western Europe and the Far East; soon after they are completed, the US is expected to make a detailed response in Geneva.

Counter-proposal

As publicised, the Soviet proposal for a separate INF agreement has two major components: the US and the Soviet Union would eliminate all their Euro-missiles in Europe, but the Soviet Union would not eliminate its mobile SS 20s in Asia; and Britain and France would freeze their nuclear forces, while the US would agree not to transfer any missiles to its allies.

Advance indications suggest that Washington, subject to current soundings with its allies, is preparing to make a generally positive counter-proposal to the offer of a separate INF agreement: the elimination of all Euro-missiles in Europe, plus a 50 per cent cut in the Soviet SS 20s in Asia. There would be no question of the US undertaking any commitments as to the British and French forces.

Such a counter-proposal might satisfy some of President Reagan's political imperatives, but could prove divisive in Europe. A separate INF agreement would allow the administration to claim real progress

in arms control, while postponing the fateful day when it might have to choose whether to trade restrictions on its Star Wars programme in exchange for deep cuts in long-range strategic missiles, and the elimination of all INF weapons. Europe would correspond, at least in declaratory terms, to the original US offer of a Zero-Zero option.

Yet serious question marks remain. How will the European allies rationalise the removal of all the American cruise and Pershing II missiles? Their deployment was widely explained on the grounds that they would help couple Europe to the US deterrent, by providing an essential link between battlefield and strategic weapons; even if the argument was shaky, their removal may raise doubts in Europe about the credibility of the US nuclear umbrella.

Modernisation plans

But the most awkward potential dilemma concerns Britain and France. London and Paris have long made clear that they would offer no constraints on their nuclear forces until the superpowers agreed deep cuts in their strategic nuclear forces and renounced any build-up of anti-missile defences; in addition, the French demand equality of conventional forces in Europe and the elimination of chemical weapons.

The logic of this position is that any British and French contribution to the Geneva negotiations would come right at the end of the process. But the logic of the Soviet position is to drag Britain and France into a much earlier phase of the negotiations, by trying once again to redefine their national deterrence as INF systems.

There is no chance that France, or the present British government, would accept proposals which compelled them to renege on their modernisation plans (in Britain's case, the withdrawal of Trident from the US). But the two governments could be in difficulty if they can be represented by Moscow as the "only obstacle to an agreement eliminating Euro-missiles."

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Building society conversion job

THE TREASURY'S proposals for allowing building societies to convert to companies show all the symptoms of an over-reaction. The original 1984 Green Paper on the reform of building societies adopted a laissez faire stance. It suggested that, for a building society to become a company, a simple procedure should be followed to seek the approval of members, who would be allocated the shares in the new company, free of charge.

However, the weeks before the publication of the Building Societies Bill in December, converting to company status suddenly became a topic of interest. Abbey National and other large societies said they might wish to escape the restrictions on their activities as building societies envisaged in the bill.

The realisation grew that the green paper procedure could give building society investors large windfall profits and lead to abuse. On the slightest rumour of planned conversion, investors would switch large sums of money between societies, creating liquidity crises. This was the experience of the US savings and loans bodies before the conversion process there was regulated in 1976.

The Treasury responded by publishing a consultative document on the conversion process at the same time as the bill. This will lead, it is hoped, to amendments being introduced to the bill, now passing its committee stage, over the next few weeks.

The consultative document has proposed restrictions on the conversion process which go well beyond removing the scope for abuse.

Reasonable compromise

The underlying problem is the ownership of the 55% of building society reserves. The original green paper proposal said in effect that the reserves should belong to all the investors at the time the society converts. They would thus receive a gift of assets that should in theory belong to all those investors and borrowers who have contributed to the mutual organisation's accumulated surpluses throughout its history. The consultative document proposes a reasonable compro-

'WITH the same power at his elbow and doing the same job as his continental counterpart, a British car assembly worker produces only half as much output per shift. It is not too late to correct these weaknesses.' That was the challenge thrown down to Britain's motor industry in 1975 by the Central Policy Review Staff, the Government think tank.

Ford of Britain, which has just bought its way out of a threatened strike by its 37,000 car workers over pay and productivity with a deal worth up to 18 per cent over two years, complains that output per employee in Britain is less than two thirds that of its factories in West Germany. The company wants flexibility in the use of labour, an end to demarcation disputes and greater responsibility from workers in ensuring quality.

It is too harsh, however, to say that nothing has changed.

Austin Rover, for example, has just completed an almost strike-free year and Jaguar claims to have doubled productivity in five years.

Mr Harold Musgrave, chairman of Austin Rover, claims productivity, at 14 cars per man per year, is already up to the best in Europe. Now a new initiative is being launched to involve the workforce with the aim of lifting productivity to Japanese levels.

Mr John Egan, chairman of Jaguar, who has led a turnaround of the Coventry-based quality cars company, insists the company is on a par with BMW and the European competition. Similar claims come from Vauxhall, the UK subsidiary of General Motors, and from Peugeot Talbot, the UK arm of the French multinationals.

Mr Geoff Whalen, Peugeot's UK managing director, maintains that the good practices at his assembly plant in Coventry — the city once notorious for its militant car workers — are being used as an example for the company's French factories.

The question, then, is not whether change has occurred, but whether it has occurred on the necessary scale.

The Think Tank report could hardly have been more damning. It complained that the logic of this position is that any British and French contribution to the Geneva negotiations would come right at the end of the process. But the logic of the Soviet position is to drag Britain and France into a much earlier phase of the negotiations, by trying once again to redefine their national deterrence as INF systems.

There is no chance that France, or the present British government, would accept proposals which compelled them to renege on their modernisation plans (in Britain's case, the withdrawal of Trident from the US). But the two governments could be in difficulty if they can be represented by Moscow as the "only obstacle to an agreement eliminating Euro-missiles."

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There is no chance that France, or the present British government, would accept proposals which compelled

Letters to the Editor

Plenty of traditionally strong European industries

From Mr S. Telegdy

The heading of Sir Michael Butler's article "How Europeans can fight the multinationals" (February 5) was a warning signal to anyone who may have expected a less polemic plea for governmental support of European co-operative research from the former UK representative to the European Community.

Certainly, your transoceanic readership will be confused. Are they now to fight ICI in the US, Volkswagen in Brazil

or Ciba-Geigy in Japan? Or only those companies stuck with the emotive multinational label which have been the catalysts of high technology transfer to Europe?

Yet this sort of politicised, one-sided approach will not serve a good purpose; that of finding the right direction for sponsored industrial research and development. There are many who seriously question the soundness of targeting government or EEC funds towards technology areas, which are

weak in Europe. The need to reinvest in the wheel of electronics, telecommunications etc is only felt by those to whom self-reliance is a political, not an economic maxim. Building on strengths has always been the soundest industrial strategy. There are plenty of traditionally strong European industries, whose products compare favourably with the best in the world as testified by the success of numerous European — multinational — companies in the US and Japan. Why not strengthen them,

rather than pour money into uncompetitive industries?

The prospect of squandering government funds on glamorous dreams strengthens my belief that while industry left to its own devices may not be infallible, it will still be better than under the influence of governmental interference. If only one could show us how to fight the meddling politicians.

Stephen L. Telegdy,
Ave des Etats-Unis, 72
Belgium

Conscientious teachers

Sir — I was at a London tube station recently and observed a group of school children and two teachers who were accompanying them. They were judging from the remarks of the children, going to one of the museums in Kensington.

The young man was wearing a pair of old boots, partially lacquered and badly in need of some boot-polish; his trousers of the tatty camouflage type, seemed to have been slept in for the past year or two. He wore an old, tattered top with no sign of a shirt underneath, an unbuttoned cardigan and socks, and it was all crowned by a head of uncombed hair. The young woman had a pink bikini-style make-up and a crumpled denim blouse and trousers. She was also wearing a pair of dirty-white plimsoles.

Both teachers were leaning against the wall, each with a cigarette hanging from their lips. Shortly afterwards they ambled gaily off, the male teacher with his hands in his pockets, shoulders bent, still puffing away at his cigarette.

These comments are unfair and I know it. There are many good and conscientious teachers who have to suffer because of the lack of professionalism in others. They have the solution in their own hands — they should vote (with their feet, if need be) to accept Sir Keith Joseph's offer of more money for good teaching and less for bad teaching. Strangely enough other professions work on this principle.

G. B. Miller,
Motzstrasse 22
D-4032 Koenigswinter 2
West Germany

MFA and consumer choice

From the Consumers' Association

Sir — Your letter ("January 30") is very timely and to the point. We have argued for many years that the Multi-Fibre Arrangement deserves progressive and effective euthanasia, given the well-documented costs it imposes on the economy in general and consumers in particular. Now is the time for that to happen, when we have a strong lobby from developing countries, the forthcoming Gatt round, and, not least, a relatively healthy West European textile industry.

We share your dismay that the European Community has so far failed to grasp the nettle by agreeing to a firm plan to phase out the MFA.

Rachel Waterhouse,
14, Buckingham Street, WC2

Convertibility of currency

From Dr P. Collins

Sir — Professor Pearce (January 30) is correct in pointing out the merits of guaranteeing currency convertibility as a means of preventing inflation which has been the norm throughout the period during which paper money has been in use. Unfortunately it is not possible, as he proposes, to define the limit of money in terms of the amount of commodity "factors" causing unacceptable distortions in commodity markets (such as that resulting from the attempt by the ITC to fix a "floor" price for tin). What is possible, and is furthermore the only practical means of resuming real currency convertibility today, is to make money convertible, convertible into each of a range of commodities treated separately. Such a system would be simple to implement, and it would avoid the weaknesses of more complex schemes which would distort prices.

The details of this means of resuming currency convertibility

were worked out in the 1940s by the Australian economist, the late Leo St Clare Grindon. As a form of currency convertibility, Grindon's system would have a beneficial influence on a wide range of issues, including reducing inflation; stabilising the exchange rate; and the balance of payments; counteracting recession; and encouraging international trade (particularly that with developing countries).

In 1949, for instance, during the past 12 months 130 sewer collapses occurred. In addition, closed circuit TV surveys have identified many kilometers of sewers with anything from hairline cracks to signs of further imminent collapse. Even allowing for contributions from the National Coal Board where collapses can be related

directly to recent mining activity, to ensure only a barely adequate level of service requires an annual expenditure of several million pounds. Yorkshire Water Authority has done an excellent job in making the necessary funds available in extremely difficult circumstances to keep the worst of the problems at bay.

What's worrying many local authorities, and Barnsley is not an exception, is by any means what treatment we can expect from a private company in the face of what is going to be an enormous call on its resources? The attractiveness of a company as a commercial investment having to deal with a problem of these dimensions must be open to doubt.

P. G. Thompson,
Town Hall,
Barnsley.

Metamorphosis towards market-based trade unionism

From Mr N. Stacey

Sir — The metamorphosis from class-based to market-based trade unionism — as Lombard so aptly described (January 31) — raises the spectre of unleashing entrepreneurial instincts among trade unions; it can also significantly assist in the re-institutionalisation of Britain.

As entrepreneurs arise largely from the ranks of the immigrant, refugees and the best of all catchment areas — the working class, why is it that the working class does not turn out more of them? A possible explanation is a stifling of working class entrepreneurial instincts by the historical stance of most trade unions and their officials.

With all too visible exceptions, trade unions have discouraged their members from aspiring to supervisory or managerial positions, not to mention board appointments. "A man who has gone over to the boss class cannot be trusted anymore" — a magis-

terial Herbert Morrisonian pre-judge long outdated though still lingering. But, beyond such structural rigidity, trade unions have traditionally tried to ensure that members remain rigidly "working class."

Encouraging advancement in personal and social status, in personal self-fulfilment and responsibility for decision-making, have not been high on the unions' agenda. A negative, perhaps even hostile, milieu to rising job expectations — i.e. occupational status — must dampen union members' quest for seeking more responsibility — the mainspring for entrepreneurial action. Tact or open disapproval of such ambitions or instincts by union officials must be followed by an anaesthesia of such desires on the part of trade union members. Such "disappointments" can become hardened and such attitudes transmitted by children. This is one way that disdain of enterprise has been passed from one generation to

the next.

Despite disapprovals at the workplace, the entrepreneurial aspirations of the working class, i.e. trade unionists, cannot be suppressed — as revealed by the meteoric rise of the black economy. Since the recent growth in unemployment, self-employment has risen by 31 per cent. Moonlighters are drawn mostly from the ranks of workers and, with few exceptions, not from among PhD graduates. Freedom from external constraints to earn a living has been a liberating influence and, from all accounts, moonlighters are highly efficient at their jobs; these are the working class entrepreneurs in embryo!

Traditional trade union attitude to entrepreneurial instincts, such as innovation, has, at best, been negative but, more likely, hostile. In a fast changing world of skills and jobs, such a stick-in-the-mud approach is inappropriate. The days are gone when trade unions could be concerned

THREE DAYS after last Friday's hotly disputed presidential election in the Philippines, the most alarming but confident prediction looks certain to come true. Mr Ferdinand Marcos, by neck or by crook will retain power, and his challenger, Mrs Corazon Aquino, will be excluded.

The cost is also much as forecast. Mr Marcos's credibility has hit an all-time low, and he faces potentially insuperable trouble. His closest friend and ally, the United States, is in an appalling dilemma. And the outlook for the Philippines is unrelied uncertainty: one thing the election was supposed to remove.

What no one accurately predicted were the events of Election Day itself. Nobody foresaw the shoving of the electoral rolls to enhance the effectiveness of phoney votes. Nobody guessed the abuses would be so blatant. Nobody imagined the counting could be so deliberately confused.

Hundreds of thousands of people were disenfranchised last Friday. The winner, chosen by foreign observers as well as ordinary Filipinos, included vote-buying, switched ballot boxes and rigged election returns. The count slowly degenerated into farce, and by last night it was obvious that only Mr Marcos could win the official tally done by the National Assembly he controls.

At every turn Mr Marcos' ministers and the government-controlled media have thrown back criticisms made by the Opposition and the National Movement for Free Elections (Nanofre). The election dog monitoring the poll, which was supposed to conduct a parallel "quick count" with the Official Commission on Elections (Ocied) and ended up with completely different running totals.

Just as Mr Marcos sought before the election to create doubts — over whether he would really call an early election, over the date, over whether the courts would allow it to go ahead and whether he might withdraw at the last minute — all tactics during and after the election day seemed aimed at creating maximum confusion for the greatest tactical advantage.

What Mr Marcos could not have reckoned on was the outspokenness of the international observer teams which came to see the polls for themselves. On Sunday, a 44-member delegation drawn from 19 nations openly accused Mr Marcos's party of cheating. Yesterday a US Congressional team spoke of "disturbing" efforts to undermine the electoral process, and its leader, Senator Richard Lugar, said the poll was "teetering on the brink of disaster."

The Philippines election

Marcos: the victory no one could stop

By Chris Sherwell in Manila

acquire more recruits. Diplomats suggest that another army group, known locally as the "Sparta Group" and believed to be urban middle-class radicals, may also turn to organised violence.

The critical unknown factor is the military, headed by General Fabian Ver, the man implicated and cleared in the alleged conspiracy to murder Mrs Aquino's husband. In the event of demonstrations, it is not clear whether the 210,000-strong armed forces of the Philippines can be wholly depended upon to enforce Mr Marcos's writ.

Particular attention has focused recently on the so-called "Reform Group" of younger officers within the military, to whom Mrs Aquino indirectly appealed before the election with her premise that "overbearing" generals would be retired and "deserving" colonels and other officers would be promoted.

The US's position on such matters will be vital, but its dilemma right now is that a long-time friend and ally has, in effect, stuck his tongue out at Washington.

It is not obvious what Mr Marcos can do in response. The most straightforward option, a cut-off in aid, might take time to implement and could probably be managed only for about two years without jeopardising the agreement under which the US uses strategic air and naval bases in the Philippines.

Mr Marcos knows how important those bases are to the US — even Washington said they were "irreplaceable" shortly before the election. He also knows that the US cannot afford to undermine the counter-insurgency forces in the Philippines.

As for Mr Marcos, who is 68 and has held power for over 20 years, no one knows his people better. It still remains possible that the controversy over the election will disintegrate into an array of legalistic battles, Church Masses and expensive patronage. Thus, with a move towards a promised constitutional reform and a review of the bated decree-making powers, Mr Marcos could remain firmly in the saddle, at least for the moment.

Since it is not in Mr Marcos's character to give ground unnecessarily, however, the more plausible outcome is a groundswell of resentment and bitterness which will take the Philippines closer to their limits of tolerance and provocation. It will then take all of Mr Marcos's well-honed political instincts and cunning to manage such a delicate balance. As it will also take considerable effort, of which he has diminishing quantities, there is now a formula for trouble in the Philippines.



Top salaries review body

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service

Sir — Your article ("Downing Street's machine minister" (February 3)) could revive a myth which was given currency in an article by Samuel Beattie (August 4 1985) and which I should like to dispel.

The salary rates for senior civil servants, senior officers of the armed services and the judiciary adopted by the Government in July last year were those recommended by the independent top salaries review body (TSRB). I was responsible for co-ordinating the interdepartmental process.

Personal tax reform

From Mr C. Beattie, QC

Sir — Your article (February 3) on personal tax reform suggests that every adult, married or single, should be given the same standard tax allowance against his or her income, with no right to transfer the allowance to his or her spouse, or anyone else. This is surely right, though it will improve the proposed by phasing out personal reliefs altogether for income rising above a certain figure. You suggest, though, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might be unwilling to make this sort of change because the Conservative Party might lose the votes of those who would do less well from the change. I sincerely trust that party political considerations are not going to inhibit the Chancellor from proposing what is sensible.

During the past six years of Conservative government, Parliament has passed Finance Acts of greater length than in any comparable period in our country's history. The result is a taxation structure as complex as almost in debt.

The task which faces the Conservative Party is to get Parliament not merely to make personal reliefs fair — which has not been done after many years of talking — but also to do away with nearly all other reliefs from tax. Such a move would enable rates of tax to be reduced, and if coupled with stopping the ever-increasing spending of public money on unworthy objects, would enable the overall tax burden to be reduced, as promised by the Conservative Party, instead of being continuously increased, as has in fact happened. Or would party political considerations inhibit any such programme?

C. N. Beattie,
24 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn WC2

imagination, and this from a party that promised to simplify our taxes. Much of the trouble lies in the imposition of various taxes (now perhaps to have a poll tax added) at widely high rates with a vast number of reliefs granted in response to the whims of the moment and kept on foot with increasing complexity.

The task which faces the Conservative Party is to get Parliament not merely to make personal reliefs fair — which has not been done after many years of talking — but also to do away with nearly all other reliefs from tax. Such a move would enable rates of tax to be reduced, and if coupled with stopping the ever-increasing spending of public money on unworthy objects, would enable the overall tax burden to be reduced, as promised by the Conservative Party, instead of being continuously increased, as has in fact happened. Or would party political considerations inhibit any such programme?

C. N. Beattie,
24 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn WC2

directly to recent mining activity, to ensure only a barely adequate level of service requires an annual expenditure of several million pounds. Yorkshire Water Authority has done an excellent job in making the necessary funds available in extremely difficult circumstances to keep the worst of the problems at bay.

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P. G. Thompson,
Town Hall,
Barnsley.

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Alan Friedman in Palermo reports on high drama at the start of the 'maxi-trial'

Italian state takes on the Mafia

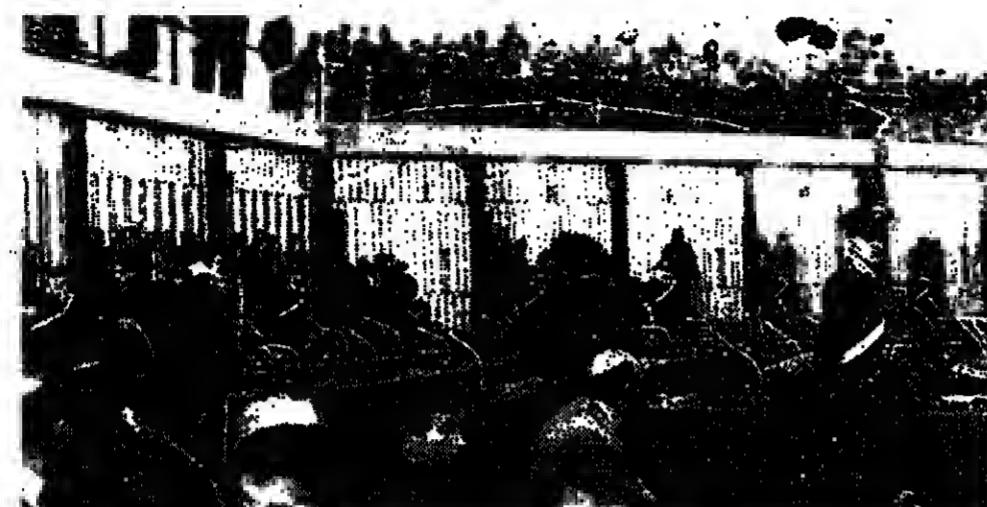
"THIS is the trial of the Mafia organisation known as 'Cosa Nostra,' an extremely dangerous criminal association which, using violence and intimidation, has spread, and continues to spread, death and terror."

That is the first sentence of the 8,607-page indictment against 474 alleged Mafia members who went on trial in Palermo yesterday. The trial, the biggest and most important yet against the Mafia, opened amid high drama in a city all too familiar with the drama of frequent assassinations, the constant wall of police sirens and the sight of Carabinieri with machine guns and bullet-proof waistcoats.

The "maxi-trial," as it is being called in Italy, is more than just a legal procedure against defendants, who are alleged to include five of the 12 members of the Mafia's governing commission and many of the most ferocious killers, heroin traders and even tax collectors with close ties to leading politicians. It is the first serious trial of the Italian state against the Mafia, an organisation which does not accept the right of the state to try it.

The trial, which is expected to last up to 18 months, is being held in a specially built bunker courtroom inside a Palermo prison. The bunker cost more than £20m (\$26m) to construct and contains 250 armed guards. Outside, helicopters circle overhead, and 2,000 Carabinieri patrol. The feeling of siege is completed by the large blue armoured vehicles parked beside it.

The indictment, which fills 40 volumes (four of which number 1,000 pages and concern Mafia banking and finance), is dedicated to Judge Rocco Chinnici, the magistrate who began the investigation three years ago and who died when the Mafia bombed his car. It is packed with detail on the multi-billion dollar



The specially constructed and fortified courtroom in Palermo where 474 alleged Mafia members are on trial

heroin trade which is the Mafia's main activity, its vertically integrated command structure, international ties and financial side.

The five magistrates who drew it up travelled the world, from Brazil and the United States to Asia and Switzerland in search of evidence.

Thus, one can read about current account number 209301 at Credit Suisse in Lucerne, where, from

1981 and 1983 Mr Tommaso Spadaro - who is on trial for being a leading Mafioso and heroin trader - is

alleged to have received bank transfers of payments totalling £900m (\$550m) in dollars and other currencies from American associates. Mr Spadaro, in court yesterday, screamed to journalists from his iron-barred cage that "the money in that account is not mine."

Judge Giovanni Falcone, the leading investigating magistrate who

has made "the war" his life's work, says the Credito Svizzero account is "just one account among many which the Swiss supplied us with."

Dr Falcone lives an exotic existence: he is constantly escorted by 11 bodyguards in bullet-proof jackets who drive him in a motorcade of three or four police cars.

He and others are stung by legal criticisms levelled against the idea of a mass trial. He reckons that, instead of using violence, the Mafia is responding by hiring the best lawyers and by using its influence with politicians and other officials to discredit and undermine the trial.

"In a city like Palermo, where you can have 300 murders a year, the judicial system is engorged. This maxi-trial is not our choice; it is a necessity," he comments.

What kind of effect has the trial

had on the Mafia? Dr Falcone says it is "not decisive, but important." He says the Mafia is suffering financially. Indeed, one of the star defendants is Mr Pippo Calo, the organisation's alleged finance director, who drives him in a motorcade of three or four police cars.

Meanwhile, more than 100 of the 474 alleged Mafiosi on trial are still at large. On the eve of the trial, in fact, police found a mountain hide-out near Palermo with guns, ammunition and the word "ciao" inscribed on a piece of wood.

Mr Michele Greco, the alleged "boss of bosses," is still at large and being tried *in absentia*. But it is worth noting that, as recently as the spring of 1982, Mr Greco was not even listed by the authorities as a Mafioso. Instead, he was seen

walking freely up and down the halls of the Sicilian parliament, lobbying, power-brokering and helping to write legislation. Now he is on the run.

One disturbing aspect not addressed in the trial is the manner in which a number of politicians from the Christian Democrat and other parties are said to have worked hand-in-glove with the Mafia.

It is widely assumed, but rarely stated in public, that the murder in 1982 of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the special anti-Mafia high commissioner, could not have been carried out without the tacit consent of senior politicians in Sicily. Anti-Mafia magistrates and politicians say in private that certain members of the Rome Government receive electoral support from Sicilian politicians tied to the organisation.

Plans are already under way, though for a second "maxi-trial" at least 305 more alleged Mafia members, and this second trial is supposed to touch on the issue known in Italy as the "third level" - a reference to politicians who are linked to the Mafia.

Mr Leoluca Orlando, the determined anti-Mafia mayor of Palermo who takes personal risks by cutting off city contractors who are believed to be Mafioso-linked, says the trial which opened yesterday "should be viewed as one trial and not the trial."

Thus, the importance of the maxi-trial is relative. In its size, scope and detail it is without precedent.

The very fact that it is being held in Palermo, the home of the Mafia, is a statement, and the stature of the defendants is genuine. But if the anti-Mafia campaign in Italy is to be serious in future, the next trial must tackle the explosive issue of the Mafia and Italian politicians.

DAWSON INTERNATIONAL OFFER OVERTAKEN BY NEW MERGER PLAN

Coats agrees \$1bn bid from Vantona

BY ANTHONY MORETON, TEXTILES CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

COATS PATONS, the Scottish-based manufacturer of threads and clothing which last week agreed to a takeover bid from Dawson International, yesterday changed its mind and agreed to a rival £724m (\$1.03bn) offer from Vantona Viella.

The bid, if it goes through, will create one of the largest fibres-to-clothes concerns in the world, capitalised at £1.2bn and with annual sales of £1.69bn.

Mr James McAdam, Coats' managing director, said that, although "the Dawson deal was very strong, especially on brand names, the merger with Vantona Viella was even better".

Mr Ronald Miller, chairman of Dawson, said: "It is astonishing Coats should change its mind so suddenly. I could not have done it."

He would not be drawn on whether Dawson would make a counteroffer, though the company has been buying shares in Coats steadily and now has a 2 per cent holding.

Mr David Alliance, managing director of Vantona, said Coats Viella, as the new company will be known, "would be one of the largest and most balanced textile companies in the world, employing some 75,000 people and having wide spread of products."

Vantona is offering a paper deal under which it will exchange 10 of its ordinary shares for every 17 in Coats Patons. It already owns 16m shares or about 3.6 per cent of Coats' capital.

The offer values Coats shares at 257.6p compared with Dawson's offer of 239p. On the basis of last

night's prices, Vantona's paper offer is being underwritten by a cash alternative of 238.2p a share. Last night, Vantona closed at 238p, down 12p, and Coats Patons at 247p, up 9p. Dawson rose 10p to 218p.

Preliminary results for Vantona for the year to November, also announced yesterday, show profit up £9.6m to £52.1m on turnover £58m higher at £675.5m. A final dividend of 7.5p is being paid compared with the 7.5p forecast at the time of the group's merger with Nottingham Manufacturing last June.

Sir James Spooner, chairman of Vantona, is to become non-executive chairman of Coats Viella, with Mr Alliance deputy chairman and chief executive. Mr McAdam will be deputy chairman and deputy chief executive.

Vantona's overwhelming strength is supplying clothes, carpets and household textiles to the UK market. Coats gives it a world market, since the Scottish company is a major force in at least 30 countries.

Falling oil to fuel German growth

By Rupert Cornwell in Bonn

WEST GERMAN industrialists, bankers and economic analysts are now busy working out the blessings of the current fall in oil prices, which should enhance what already promises to be a vintage year for the country's economy.

Mr Hans Karl Schneider, chairman of the Government's independent five-man council of economic advisers, says a drop in the price of oil to \$15 a barrel - a prospect now openly held out by Sheikh Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister - could add at least 0.5 per cent to gross national product (GNP) in 1986.

The "five wise men" have hitherto been anticipating growth of some 3 per cent, a forecast that is at the conservative end of most estimates. Other experts, including the Bundesbank, estimate expansion might already be on course in reach 4 per cent, a fortifying thought for Chancellor Helmut Kohl as he prepares for the federal election early next year.

Mr Schneider also suggested in a radio interview that inflation, currently running at around 1.5 per cent, the lowest level in 17 years, might decline further to barely 1 per cent.

The drop in the oil price, which stands at about \$17 or \$18 a barrel on the spot market at present, has already had an impact at the petrol pumps in Germany. Motorists who have long enjoyed one of the lowest pump prices in Europe are now paying DM 1.19 (49 cents) or less a litre of super grade. Cases have been reported of ordinary grade petrol selling for as little as DM 1 a litre.

Mr Thomas Wegescheider, head of the union-owned Bank für Gemeinschaft (BfG), said last week that such prices would save every West German driver DM 300 annually. A 20 per cent fall in the oil price, he added, would boost private consumption by up to DM 16bn - a figure roughly equal to the round of tax cuts which the Government is bringing in this year.

The benefits could even spill over into unemployment, which at 2.8m now represents the biggest blot on the economic record of Mr Kohl's centre-right coalition. Mr Schneider said that the lower oil price, "an economic programme for us financed by the Opec countries," could help create 400,000 new jobs in 1986 in West Germany.

Further, if somewhat deceptive, evidence of the steady improvement in the economy came yesterday with news that West Germany's balance of payments showed a 1985 surplus of DM 1.8bn, compared with a deficit the previous year of DM 3.1bn.

The payments surplus, built on the foundation of record trade and current surpluses of DM 73bn and DM 38.5bn, was kept within respectable proportions only by a substantial increase in capital outflows.

US plea to Philippines
Continued from Page 1
he to the Filipino people. Even if Mr Reagan were to conclude that the vote had been credible, which may well not, Congress is going to be extremely unwilling to approve increased aid in present circumstances.

If, on the other hand, Mrs Aquino emerges as the new President, there is considerable doubt in Washington as to whether she has the political skills needed to unite the country after such a divisive contest.

In the end, Washington may decide that it has to continue to work with Mr Marcos even if he stays in power on a manifestly fraudulent basis. But the Administration would adopt such an approach only with the greatest reluctance. It would not go down well on Capitol Hill, and Washington would clearly be hoping that it would be only a matter of time before Mr Marcos left the scene.

Van Zyl Slabbert avoids last confrontation with Botha

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN CAPE TOWN

THE EXPECTED final confrontation in the South African Parliament between President P. W. Botha and Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, former leader of the white Progressive Federal Party (PFP) opposition who resigned on Friday, failed to take place yesterday.

In a clear reference to the bitter disappointment his resignation has caused leading PFP MPs, Dr van Zyl Slabbert said in a letter to the speaker that his presence could have been an embarrassment to members of the House.

President Botha, who had been expected to take the opportunity to rebuff Dr van Zyl Slabbert's accusations that Parliament had been treated with contempt by the Government and was a "cosy club" unrelated to the real issues facing the country, was told beforehand and also failed to appear.

National Party politicians have meanwhile been trying to heal the wounds within their own party caused by the public humiliation of such as Bishop Desmond Tutu and the African National Congress in Lusaka as a vindication of extra-parliamentary opposition to the tri-cameral parliamentary system, which excludes the black majority. But it has dismayed many PFP supporters.

Dr van Zyl Slabbert, an Afrikaner, not only raised the status and political attractiveness of the PFP among both Afrikaner and English-speaking voters, but also managed to preserve unity between the left and right wings of his party. His loss could re-open the party's internal divisions and weaken its appeal to the more reformist sections of the business community which have until now provided substantial financial and other support.

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South Africa violence, Page 4

Paris currencies proposals

Continued from Page 1

announced shifts in economic policy to intervention in the currency markets.

After a gradual process, Mr Le Gouez believes that it would be desirable to institutionalise the system. Without this, he says, it would be "impossible to bring sufficient pressure to bear when awkward domestic economic policy decisions have to be made."

But he recognises that such developments would mean national monetary authorities giving up some of the autonomy they enjoy - "or think they enjoy."

The French Government was one of those to welcome President Reagan's change of tack in his State of the Union message when he asked the US Treasury to explore the idea

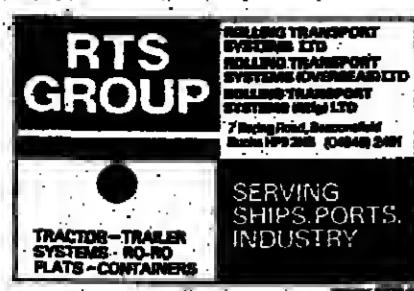
of an international conference on the role and relationship of currency markets.

The French believe that both Japanese and British attitudes towards encouraging exchange rate stability are becoming more favourable. They recognise, however, that the Germans remain opposed because of the difficulties of controlling the flow of international capital movements.

The French believe that reforms of the international monetary system should be discussed within the IMF - thus involving the developing countries. They are against the proposal made by Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, in April last year for a special conference of industrialised nations.

World Weather

Alaska	-1	34	Edmonton	0	22	Moscow	0	28	Rio de Janeiro	0	15	St. Petersburg	0	18	Tokyo	0	18	Vienna	0	22
Alberta	-1	34	Fairbanks	0	22	Freiburg	0	22	Geneva	0	15	Helsinki	0	18	Hong Kong	0	18	Kuala Lumpur	0	22
Arizona	-1	34	Fargo	0	22	Frankfurt	0	22	Geneva	0	15	Hamburg	0	18	Helsinki	0	18	Kuala Lumpur	0	22
Arkansas	-1	34	Florida	0	22	Graz	0	22	Helsinki	0	15	Iceland	0	18	London	0	18	Montreal	0	22
California	-1	34	Florida	0	22	Hamburg	0	22	Helsinki	0	15	Iceland	0	18	London	0	18	Montreal	0	22
Colorado	-1	34	Florida	0	22	Hamburg	0	22	Helsinki	0	15	Iceland	0	18	London	0	18	Montreal	0	22
Connecticut	-1	34	Florida	0	22	Hamburg	0	22	Helsinki	0	15	Iceland	0	18	London	0	18	Montreal	0	22
Illinois	-1	34	Florida	0	22	Hamburg	0	22	Helsinki	0	15	Iceland	0	18	London	0	18	Montreal	0	22
Indiana	-1	34	Florida	0	22	Hamburg	0	22												



SECTION II - COMPANIES AND MARKETS FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday February 11 1986



Daimler-Benz plans sale in AEG bid move

BY JOHN DAVIES IN FRANKFURT.

DAIMLER-BENZ, the West German motor vehicle group, is planning to sell its stake in Metallgesellschaft, the mining metals and trading concern, to fulfil a Cartel Office condition for approving its proposed takeover of the AEG electrical company.

Daimler-Benz has an indirect stake of almost 2 per cent in Metallgesellschaft. Along with three equal partners, it has a 25 per cent stake in a holding company which in turn owns 35 per cent of Metallgesellschaft.

It has become clear during the last few weeks that the Cartel Office sees the state as one of several obstacles to its approval of the AEG takeover.

The Cartel Office has been considering how the takeover might add to the market power of Daimler-Benz.

Daimler and AEG, and it wants to maintain competition in various times of business involved.

Cartel officials are understood, for instance, to want Daimler-AEG's relationship with Siemens, the country's biggest electrical group, to emphasise competition rather than co-operation. Siemens, however, is one of Daimler-Benz's partners in the holding company owning a Metallgesellschaft stake.

In addition, Metallgesellschaft owns a majority of Kolinenschmidt, the motor-vehicle components maker, which is an important supplier to Daimler-Benz.

Prof Werner Rettichswaldt, Daimler's chief executive, has already indicated that the company would go along with the Cartel Office's demands if they did not hurt too much.

Daimler's holding company partners, including Deutsche Bank and the Allianz insurance group as well as Siemens, will have first opportunity to buy the Metallgesellschaft stake.

Cartel Office concern is also believed to focus on certain aspects of AEG, including its 25 per cent stake in Transformator-Union (TU), the loss-making electrical transformer plant. Siemens owns the remaining 75 per cent.

Solving the TU problem to the take-over could get the go-ahead if the Cartel Office was assured that its conditions would be met within a specified time.

Daimler-Benz gained a 24.9 per cent stake in AEG through a capital increase for the purpose.

Volvo again extends deadline on takeover offer for Cardo

BY KEVIN DONE, NORDIC CORRESPONDENT, IN STOCKHOLM

VOLVO yesterday extended its SKr 2.3m (\$428m) takeover bid for Cardo, the Swedish investment and industrial holding company, for another week. However, it gave a warning that it would withdraw its bid if it failed to attract at least 90 per cent of the Cardo equity.

Volvo has already extended its bid once and has been forced to impose the terms of the offer after meeting "local" resistance from small shareholders in the northern Swedish province of Skane, where Cardo is located.

The Cardo board reversed its initial acceptance of the Volvo bid and recommended its shareholders in

early January that they reject the offer.

The bid was due to expire last Friday, but it appears that Volvo was still some way short of reaching the threshold of 90 per cent, at which it can obtain the compulsory purchase of outstanding shares.

Volvo also stepped up the pressure on recalcitrant Cardo shareholders by stating that there would be no further changes to the terms of the offer.

When it first placed the bid last November, Volvo already owned 22.9 per cent of the Cardo equity. It is planning to combine Cardo's in-

ustrial operations — the Swedish Sugar Company, Hilleborg, the seed and plant-breeding company, and Weihuijse, the seeds company — with its existing Provender food division. The Cardo equity portfolio is being offered back to existing Cardo shareholders in the form of a new investment company.

As part of the offer Volvo is also bidding SKr 20m for the 17.1 per cent of the Hilleborg equity not already owned by Cardo. Volvo said yesterday that it had already secured more than 90 per cent of Hilleborg, including the Cardo holding, but that the offer would also be withdrawn if the Cardo bid failed.

Amax Europe director resigns after shake-up

BY STEPHEN WAGSTYL IN LONDON

MRS ERICA TORDJMAN, a close associate of Mr Pierre Goussaud, non-executive chairman of Amax, the struggling US mining and metals group, has resigned.

Her resignation as president-director of Paris-based Amax Europe and Climax Molybdenum follows the recent reorganisation of Amax's metals business, which involves the centralisation of responsibilities at Amax's headquarters at Greenwich, Connecticut, and the dissolution of Amax Europe and of Climax.

The reorganisation is part of a drastic overhaul of the group being

carried out under the direction of Mr Allen Born, recently elected chief executive officer, who took executive control from Mr Goussaud late last year.

Amax last week announced a net loss of \$103m for the fourth quarter of 1985, making \$521m for the year, against \$236.3m in 1984. In both years there were heavy provisions for write-downs on properties and investments.

The company yesterday declined to comment on the size of any compensation that might be paid to Mrs Tordjman, who joined the company in 1983.

Kansallis group up 45%

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

KANSALLIS Banking Group, part of Finland's second largest bank, Kansallis-Osake-Pankki, increased consolidated net profits 45 per cent last year to FM 260m (\$48.7m).

Kansallis-Osake-Pankki itself posted a net profit for 1985 of FM 255m, up 29 per cent from 1984, and total assets 20 per cent to FM 348.7m.

Group total assets were also up sharply at FM 81.3bn.

Much of the bank's profits came from foreign-exchange dealing, which earned FM 86.5m. Income from trust services and security business also increased.

Kansallis-Osake-Pankki's increased profits came after a year that saw expansions into international markets

in a year of frenetic activity against the background of a booming Milan Stock Exchange. Mr de Benedetti in 1985 made substantial additions to CIR's portfolio, which already included a number of manufacturing companies and a 13.7 per cent stake in Olivetti.

The most important acquisition by CIR last year was that of control of Buitoni, the food manufacturer. CIR also established or increased stakes in other leading Italian companies and in banking institutions, along with acquisitions by Cofide, Mr de Benedetti's other holding company.

CIR's net debt rose last year from L1.76bn to L1.82bn. But the company emphasised yesterday that that was temporary and caused by the need to contribute to a L300m capital increase in CIR's subsidiary, Sabenda, at the end of last year.

The debt will be wiped out by two operations launched last month to increase CIR's capital by a total of L397m. Nominal capital will also go up from L135.5bn to L204.2bn.

CIR said consolidated results for the group were not yet available but would show a big improvement on 1984 results.

The company also proposes changing its business year to the calendar year to simplify consolidation of subsidiaries' results.

CIR will pay an increased dividend of L120 per ordinary share compared with L85 in 1984.

Dumez earnings at FF 380m

BY DAVID MARSH IN PARIS

DUMEZ, the big French construction group, said its net profits last year were little changed from the 1984 figure, at around FF 380m (\$51.7m).

Dumez, a member of the Channel Tunnel Group/France Manche consortium, which will build the fixed link across the Channel, said its turnover last year was FF 8.7bn. That was down from FF 9.04bn in 1984 and FF 11.9bn in 1983.

Bonygues, the leading French building group, has taken a stake in the tourism subsidiary of the state-controlled Havas media and advertising conglomerate. Bonygues and the hotel group Accor are each tak-

Ericsson earnings fall by 45%

By KEVIN DONE in Stockholm

ERICSSON, the Swedish telecommunications and electronics group, suffered a steep drop of 45 per cent in group profits last year, with heavy losses in its information systems division and its US operations.

Profits before tax and allocations fell in SKr 865m (\$114m) from SKr 1.569bn in 1984 and SKr 1.783bn in 1983.

The decline would have been steeper if earnings had not been bolstered by extraordinary gains of SKr 530m from sales of shares and property. Before extraordinary items, profits plunged by 65 per cent.

Ericsson said yesterday that it was still planning to pay an unchanged dividend for 1985 of SKr 2 a share. Earnings per share fell to SKr 13, compared with SKr 20 in 1984.

The biggest losses last year were incurred up in the troubled information systems business area where the operating deficit was estimated to be well in excess of SKr 500m, compared with losses of SKr 217m reported for 1984.

More detailed financial information will be released on March 13.

Profits also declined last year in the public telecommunications division, traditionally the backbone of the Ericsson group, which suffered from the loss of analogue transmission equipment orders in the US as well as from the heavy burden of investment costs for modifying the AXE digital switching system for the US and UK markets.

Ericsson said that the cables, radio communications and network engineering and construction business areas had all shown "considerable increases in income."

Group sales rose by 10.3 per cent to SKr 32.4bn from SKr 28.5bn in 1984.

The group incurred heavy costs during 1985 in its information systems business area because of the need to rectify substantial faults in both its banking terminal and its MD110 PAXX (private branch exchange) systems.

Ericsson also failed in its attempt to break into the US market for personal computers and had to cut back drastically its US information systems operations.

CIR one of the two industrial and financial holding companies controlled by Mr Carlo de Benedetti, also chairman of Olivetti, last year enjoyed a rise in profits of 133 per cent.

Net profits rose from L15.88bn (\$9m) in 1984 to L38.17bn. The value of CIR's holdings rose from L27.7bn at the end of 1984 to L520bn at the end of last year.

CIR's results reflected improved dividends from the companies it controls and expansion of CIR in 1985.

In a year of frenetic activity against the background of a booming Milan Stock Exchange, Mr de Benedetti in 1985 made substantial additions to CIR's portfolio, which already included a number of manufacturing companies and a 13.7 per cent stake in Olivetti.

The most important acquisition by CIR last year was that of control of Buitoni, the food manufacturer. CIR also established or increased stakes in other leading Italian companies and in banking institutions, along with acquisitions by Cofide, Mr de Benedetti's other holding company.

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The company also proposes changing its business year to the calendar year to simplify consolidation of subsidiaries' results.

CIR will pay an increased dividend of L120 per ordinary share compared with L85 in 1984.

Western Union to take \$300m special charge

By PAUL TAYLOR in NEW YORK

WESTERN UNION, the troubled 135-year-old US telecommunications group, plans to take a special \$300m fourth-quarter charge as part of a "comprehensive financial restructuring" aimed at putting it back on a sound financial footing.

The New Jersey-based group, which has been struggling for more than two years to cut costs and reorganise its business while negotiating a series of debt extensions with its bank lenders, said the charge primarily covered the写-off of older-generation switching and transmission equipment.

The charge appears to represent a further attempt at balance-sheet "house-cleaning" by Western Union.

Like other traditional telecommunications companies, it has been forced to write down older equipment serving telex and other traditional telecommunications services while pushing into new businesses such as electronic mail and computer data packet-switching networks.

Western Union said yesterday it had retained Drexel Burnham Lam-

bert to help to work out a wide-ranging financial restructuring plan. Apart from the equipment write-down, the company said the plan was likely to include the sale of some of its non-core businesses, together with the long-term extension of Western Union's bank debt, which is now under discussion with the group's bank lenders.

Mr Robert Leventhal, Western Union's chairman and chief executive, who was instrumental in negotiating a new wage contract after a 10-day strike by 6,500 workers last year, said the company hoped to be in a position to announce additional actions in the near future to help to provide the financial stability for the company to continue work on operational improvements.

After taking the fourth-quarter charge — and subject to an end-of-year audit now under way — the group said it expected to report a net loss of about \$370m for 1985. In 1984, the group reported an operating loss of \$83.3m and a final net loss of \$83.4m after an extraordinary tax credit of \$4.9m.

Western Union reported an operating loss of \$42.9m in the fourth quarter of 1984 and a final net loss of \$62.2m after a \$19.3m extraordinary charge. Western Union, which has invested heavily in its Easylink electronic mail service, hoping that revenue gains from electronic mail will offset declining tele-business, has been badly affected by higher local telephone charges in the wake of the Bell system break-up at the start of 1984, and by the switch away from telex to computer-to-computer communications.

Mr Leventhal said: "Escalating costs for leased telephone company facilities used to provide Western Union's telex and private wire services, coupled with reduced customer usage of these services, have contributed heavily to the company's operating loss during 1985. To lower our operating costs, we are accelerating our programme to consolidate our services on our new packet-switching network, which should result in improved service to our customers."

Occidental tax gain lifts profits

By TONY DODSWORTH in NEW YORK

OCCIDENTAL Petroleum, the Los Angeles-based oil group, reported a 22 per cent gain in net profits last year after a \$241m extraordinary gain from federal income-tax benefits on capital losses carried forward.

Net earnings amounted to \$696m, or \$4.49 a share, against \$568.7m, or \$3.05, in 1984, while sales fell to \$14.5bn from \$15.6bn.

Fourth-quarter net income fell to \$52.7m, or 27 cents a share, from \$164m, or \$1.16, despite an extraordinary gain of \$19m, while sales fell to \$3.78bn from \$4.01bn.

Apart from the tax gain, the 1985 results also included \$479m of net gains from the sale of various foreign and domestic oil and gas interests, compared with profits of \$314m on similar disposals in the previous year.

The results describe considerable changes last year in Occidental's complex overseas activities, but the group says its difficulties in Peru, where its contract was unilaterally rescinded last August, are on the way to being resolved after the signing of a new preliminary agreement in late December.

● Schlumberger, the big US oil-field services group, plunged to a net loss of \$372.7m, or \$1.25 a share, in the fourth quarter of 1985, after previously announced charges against the struggling Fairchild Semiconductor operation, Our Financial Staff writes.

The fourth-quarter charge was \$486m, consisting of the writeoff of \$250m of goodwill, a provision of \$168m for disposal of certain assets, and \$81m for the consolidation of production facilities. Schlumberger had a net profit of \$311m, or \$1.06 a share, in the quarter.

Net profits for 1985 as a whole emerged at \$351m, or \$1.17 a share, after charges of \$511m, down from \$1.18bn, or \$4.10 a share, in 1984.

Commodore loses \$53.2m at midway

By PAUL TAYLOR in NEW YORK

COMMODORE INTERNATIONAL, the once high-flying home computer manufacturer, yesterday reported a \$53.2m second-quarter loss, mainly reflecting the impact of \$51m in restructuring and other charges.

The loss, the fourth consecutive quarterly deficit for the beleaguered computer maker, comes at a critical time for the company which is involved in extended debt negotiations with its bank lenders.

Commodore had forecasted a loss last month when it announced the closure of two plants, including one in Corby, England, in an attempt to reduce costs. The latest loss compares with a \$3.2m, or

10 cents a share, profit in the year-ago period on sales which held steady at \$338.2m.

The October-December quarter loss pushed Commodore International's net loss in its first half to \$92.4m against a \$30.9m, or \$1 a share profit, in the year-ago period. Sales fell by 14.5 per cent to \$498.4m from \$582.9m.

Mr Irving Gould, Commodore's chairman and chief executive, said that the group earned \$1.05m pre-tax profits during the latest quarter before restructuring charges associated with the closure of assembly plant operations in England and a semiconductor plant in California and special adjustments of \$28m against certain

NEW ISSUE

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

February, 1986



Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit (Swedish Export Credit Corporation)

(Incorporated in the Kingdom of Sweden with limited liability)

U.S.\$ 100,000,000**9 1/4 per cent. Bonds due 10th October, 1993****ISSUE PRICE 101 1/4 per cent.****Daiwa Europe Limited**

Bankers Trust International Limited

Merrill Lynch Capital Markets

Bank of Tokyo International Limited

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

Eskilstuna Securities

Skandinaviska Enskilda Limited

Mitsubishi Finance International Limited

Post-och Kreditbanken, PKbanken

Sumitomo Finance International

Svenska Handelsbanken Group

S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Yasuda Trust Europe Limited

Goldman Sachs International Corp.

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Citicorp Investment Bank Limited

Dai-Ichi Kangyo International Limited

First Chicago Limited

Nippon Credit International (HK) Ltd.

Prudential Bache Securities

Sumitomo Trust International Limited

Swiss Bank Corporation International Limited

Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) Limited

Yasuda Trust Europe Limited

These securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.



Cable and Wireless plc

4,812,500 Ordinary Shares

These securities have been underwritten and placed in Canada by the undersigned.

Dominion Securities Pitfield Limited

Kleinwort Benson Limited acted as financial advisors to Cable and Wireless plc.

December 1985

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.



Forsmarks Kraftgrupp Aktiebolag

(Incorporated in Sweden with limited liability)

U.S. Dollars 100,000,000
8 3/4 per cent. Guaranteed Notes due 1991Guaranteed by The Kingdom of Sweden
Issue Price 100 1/4 per cent.

Svenska Handelsbanken Group

Goldman Sachs International Corp.

Application has been made for the Notes, in bearer form in the denomination of USD 5,000 each, constituting issue of the temporary guaranteed note. Interest will be payable annually in arrears on 18th February, the first payment date being made on 18th February, 1987.

Particulars of the Notes and of Forsmarks Kraftgrupp Aktiebolag are available in the statistical services of Exel Statistical Services Limited. Copies of the finding particulars relating to the Notes may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the Council of The Stock Exchange Office of The Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street, London EC2P 2BT, during the period of four business days following the date hereof or during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) at the addresses shown below during the period of fourteen days from the date hereof:

Svenska International Limited, 11th February 1986
Rowe & Pitman, 1 Finsbury Avenue,
London EC2M 4SQBankers Trust Company, 69 Old Broad Street,
London EC2P 2EE**U.S. \$250,000,000**

BANK OF BOSTON CORPORATION

Subordinated Floating Rate Notes Due 2001

Interest Rate 8 3/16% per annum

Interest Period 10th February 1986
12th May 1986

Interest Amount per U.S. \$50,000 Note due 12th May 1986 U.S. \$1,034.81

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited Agent Bank

U.S. \$60,000,000

Banco Nacional de México, S.R.

Floating Rate Subordinated Notes Due 1992

Interest Rate 8 5/16% per annum

Interest Period 10th February 1986
11th August 1986

Interest Amount per U.S. \$5,000 Note due 11th August 1986 U.S. \$210.12

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited Agent Bank

PAN HOLDING Société Anonyme Luxembourg

As of January 31, 1986, the unconsolidated net asset value was US\$202,088,824.77, i.e. US\$288.63 per share of US\$50 par value. The consolidated net asset value per share amounted as of January 31, 1986, to US\$293.95.

STOCKHOLDERS FAR EAST INVESTMENTS INC.

Net Asset Value
31st January 1986
\$3.09
per share (unaudited)

ENERGY RESOURCES & SERVICES INCORPORATED

Net Asset Value
31st January 1986
\$7.09
per share (unaudited)

US DOLLAR THE WORLD VALUE S

IN THE FT EVERY FRIDAY

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN Bank	12 1/2%	Hambros Bank	12 1/2%
Allied Dunbar & Co. Ltd.	12 1/2%	Heritable & Gen. Trust	12 1/2%
Allied Irish Bank	12 1/2%	Hill Samuel	12 1/2%
American Express Bk	12 1/2%	C. Hoare & Co.	12 1/2%
Aura Bank	12 1/2%	Hongkong & Shanghai	12 1/2%
Austria Austria	12 1/2%	Johnson Matthey Skrs	12 1/2%
Australia Carr. Corp.	12 1/2%	Knowlesley & Co. Ltd.	12 1/2%
Banco de Bilbao	12 1/2%	Kraks	12 1/2%
Bank Hapoalim	12 1/2%	Leeds Bank	12 1/2%
Bank Leumi (UK)	12 1/2%	Edward Mannion & Co.	12 1/2%
BCI	12 1/2%	Meghrig & Sons Ltd.	12 1/2%
Bank of Ireland	12 1/2%	Midland Bank	12 1/2%
Bank of Cyprus	12 1/2%	Morgan Grenfell	12 1/2%
Bank of Scotland	12 1/2%	Mount Credit Corp. Ltd.	12 1/2%
Bank of Scotland	12 1/2%	National Bk. of Kuwait	12 1/2%
Banque Belge	12 1/2%	National Girobank	12 1/2%
Barclays Bank	12 1/2%	National Westminster	12 1/2%
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	12 1/2%	New York Bk. Co.	12 1/2%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	12 1/2%	Norwich Union Bank Ltd.	12 1/2%
British Shipyards	12 1/2%	People's Trust	12 1/2%
CL. Bank Nederland	12 1/2%	PT Finans. Ind. (UK)	12 1/2%
Com. & Agric. Farmar...	12 1/2%	Provincial Trust Ltd.	12 1/2%
Cayzer Ltd.	12 1/2%	R. Raphael & Sons	12 1/2%
Cedar Holdings	12 1/2%	Richardsburg Guarantees	12 1/2%
Charterhouse Japhet	12 1/2%	Royal Bank of Scotland	12 1/2%
Citibank NA	12 1/2%	Royal Trust Co. Canada	12 1/2%
Citibank Savings	12 1/2%	Standard Chartered	12 1/2%
City Merchants Bank	12 1/2%	TCB	12 1/2%
Clydedale Bank	12 1/2%	Trustee Savings Bank	12 1/2%
Com. & Agric. Farmar...	12 1/2%	United Bank of Kuwait	12 1/2%
Comm. Bk. N. Amer.	12 1/2%	United Mizrahi Bank	12 1/2%
Consolidated Credits	12 1/2%	Westpac Banking Corp.	12 1/2%
Continental Trust Ltd.	12 1/2%	Whiteaway Laird	12 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	12 1/2%	Zurich Bank	12 1/2%
The Cyprus Popular Bk	12 1/2%	Members of the Accepting Houses Committee	12 1/2%
Duncan Lawrie	12 1/2%	7-day deposits 8 1/2%, 1-month deposits 9 1/2%, 3-month notes 12 0/2%. Deposit up to £10,000+ remains deposited.	12 1/2%
E. T. Trust	12 1/2%	Call deposits £1,000 and over 9% gross.	12 1/2%
Exeter Trust Ltd.	12 1/2%	1 Mortgage base rate.	12 1/2%
Financial & Gen. Sec.	12 1/2%	2 Demand dep. 8 1/2%, Mortgage 12 1/2%	12 1/2%
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	12 1/2%		
Flame Bk. Ltd.	12 1/2%		
Robert Fleming & Co.	12 1/2%		
Robert Fraser & Pur	12 1/2%		
Grindlays Bank	12 1/2%		
Guinness Mahon	12 1/2%		

INTL. COMPANIES & FINANCE

India's state banks ahead 32.5%

BY JOHN ELLIOTT IN NEW DELHI AND R. C. MURTHY IN BOMBAY

INDIA'S nationalised banks increased their aggregate net profits during 1985 by 32.5 per cent to Rs11bn (US\$1.5m), according to Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the country's Finance Minister.

He issued this estimate at a meeting with chief executives of 21 public sector banks in New Delhi and said the improvement was the result of the Government and the banks trying to improve efficiency and productivity.

A year ago the heads of three of the banks were sacked and Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, launched an overhaul of the banking system and an attack on corruption. There have been other widespread dismissals since then.

The Central Bureau of Investigation estimates that corruption involving more than Rs100m was uncovered on

RANK OF CEYLON, Sri Lanka, the premier bank, showed a drop in pre-tax profits to Rs260m (\$7.5m) last year, against Rs230m, writes Mervyn da Silva in Colombo.

Dr L. E. M. Fernando, its chairman, said the bank had to redeploy its resources to the central bank on the orders of the Finance Ministry in August.

The profit increase from

Rs830m in 1984 for the 21 nationalised banks followed a slight decline from Rs840m post-tax in 1983. The 21 banks account for 91.5 per cent of India's banking system.

Deposits last year grew by 18.6 per cent to Rs765bn compared with a 17 per cent growth in 1984. Profits were partially boosted by an increase from 12.5 to 14 per cent in interest rates charged on Rs50bn of bank funds lent to government-owned food grain procuring agencies under the country's rice support programme. There was also a coupon rate increase on 30-year government securities.

"What we dropped in the interest rates four months ago, we had hoped to recover in expanded business but expansion has been slow."

Large quantities of gold and silver were found during the raids, including 3.5kg of jewellery in one employee's private office safe.

The Central Bureau of Investigation estimates that corruption involving more than Rs100m was uncovered on

January 31 in raids on the homes and offices of 48 bank executives around the country.

Large quantities of gold and silver were found during the raids, including 3.5kg of jewellery in one employee's private office safe.

The profit increase from

Rs26.5m (US\$1.4m).

BP's New Zealand activities cover the range of energy exploration and production and downstream marketing. It has sizeable minority stakes in the country's two major gas fields, one of which its involvement in Liquigas, a bulk LPG distribution consortium, to 35.25 per cent from the current 18.75 per cent.

BP, which itself ranks as the third biggest company in New Zealand—will own Rockgas equally with New Zealand Industrial Gases (NZIG). In addition, the UK-based company is to increase its holding in Liquigas, a bulk LPG distribution consortium, to 35.25 per cent from the current 18.75 per cent.

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The disposals by Fletcher, which follow the recent sale of two financial services sub-

sidiaries, remain subject to approval by the country's Commerce Commission and Overseas Investment Commission.

Fletcher at the same time is considering buying a dominant role in the New Zealand steel-making industry by taking over the 81.2 per cent holding in NZSteel recently acquired by the Government.

BP and NZIG, while keeping intact the Rockgas unit, will continue independent service to existing LPG customers.

On the Wellington Stock Exchange, Fletcher shares rose 12 cents yesterday to NZ\$3.52. Those in NZIG were steady at NZ\$2.62.

The will also come about with the purchase of the stake in Liquigas held by Fletcher, which has been acting over the past six months in particular to refocus on its core businesses.

The total value of the deals announced yesterday was put at

NZ\$26.5m (US\$1.4m).

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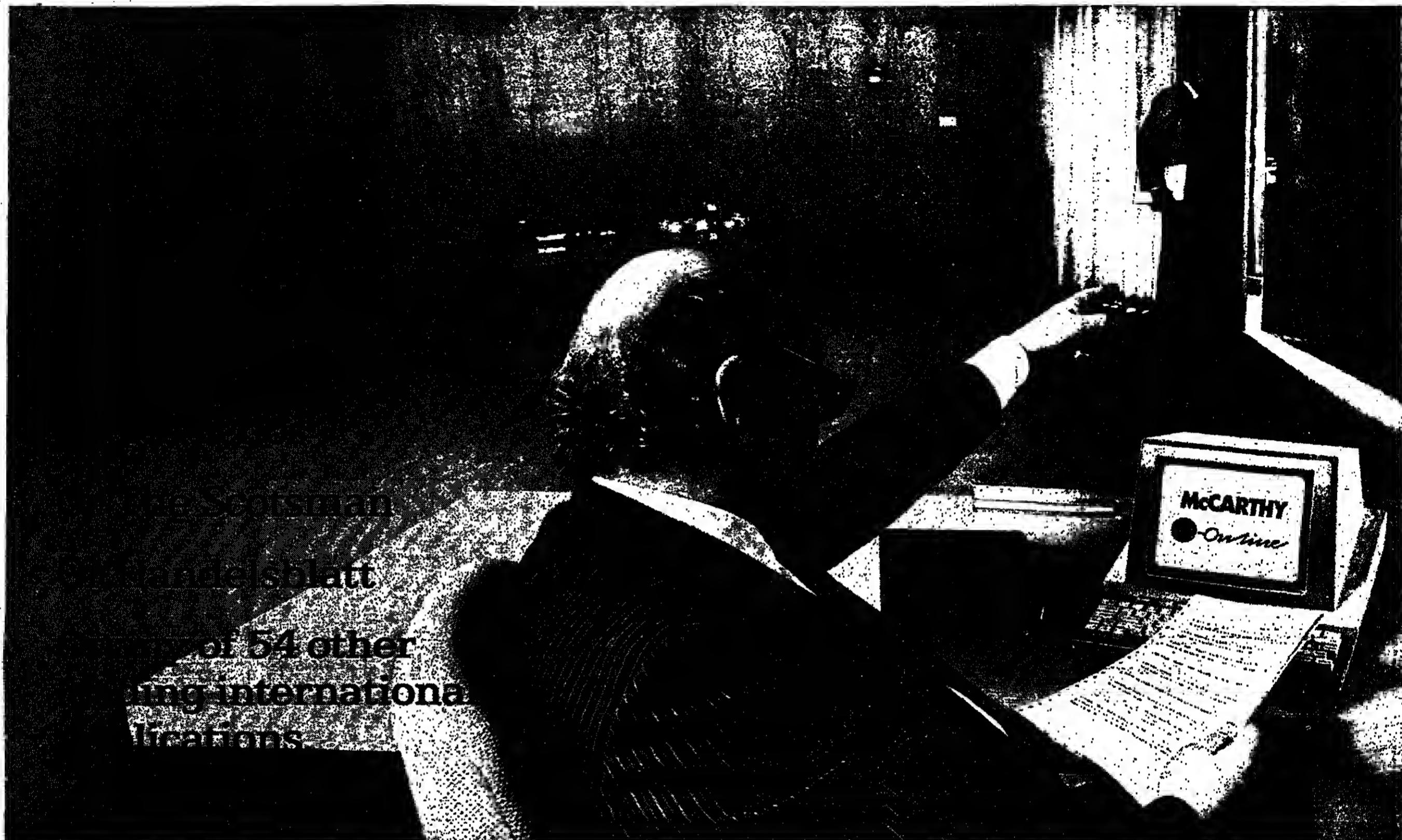
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UK COMPANY NEWS

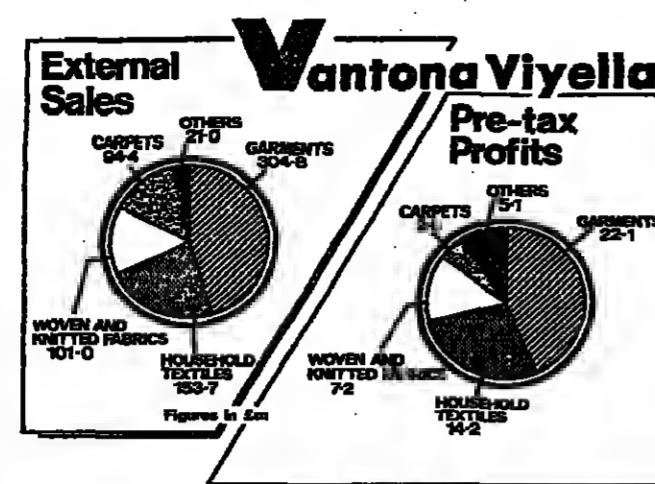
Vantona celebrates merger with £52m profit

Vantona Viyella's results for the year to November 30 1985, announced yesterday along with the £1.2bn-capitalisation merger merger with Coats Patons, showed taxable profits up from £22.4m to £52.1m—ahead of even the most optimistic City expectations.

Turnover was up from £606.5m to £874.9m, and better operating margins—up to just over 7 per cent from last year's 6.5 per cent—left pre-interest profits at £48.4m against £39.4m. Net interest stood at £1.8m (£1.3m).

All UK trading areas showed increased turnover and profits, with the largest proportional rise coming from the carpets division. Taxable profits here were doubled to £2.6m, consolidating the recovery this side has made since the disappointing results of last year. Growth in apparel textiles and fabrics also turned in appreciable improvements in both turnover and profits.

The accounts include the integration of NMC from Nottingham Manufacturing Company, acquired last summer on a merger accounting basis as if it had been merged for the whole



ments in interest costs.

Mr Alliance said that relationships with the group's leading customers, of which Marks and Spencer is one, had been strengthened with emphasis on improvements in design input, generation of new ideas in products and marketing, and versatility in production giving rise to increased market share in many areas.

The improved results reflect the success in reducing unit costs as a result of on-going programmes of re-equipping, re-training and re-engineering undertaken during the last two and a half years, said Mr Alliance.

The total dividend is raised by 2p to 12p with a final of 8p (8p) on increased capital. This is covered 3.5 times by earnings per share of 41.8 compared with 30.1p, after a lower tax charge of 27.1m (£10.2m) and minorities unchanged at £1.8m.

Extraordinary charges were slightly higher at £4.6m against £4.1m, related to costs incurred and provisions made for completion of reorganisation schemes

COATS MERGER DETAILS

Under the terms of the agreed offer, Vantona Viyella will exchange ten new ordinary shares of 20p each for every 17 ordinary shares of 25p each in Coats Patons, other than the 1m (3.4 per cent) it already owns. There is a cash alternative of £28.24p per share.

Vantona said yesterday that the terms value each Coats share at 28.41p, representing a 78 per cent rise compared with the price before the announcement of the merger with Dawson International last Friday. Vantona said that the share offer meant a 33.85p increase, and the cash alternative a 12.91p rise.

Under the terms of the NMC deal, Vantona will account for £12.3m earnings, £9.5m, dividends and secured borrowings have been eliminated, with the exception of quoted debentures of £16.7m to reserves.

The balance sheet shows overall net liquidity improving from £54m to £74.5m, and gross

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Habitat seeks to clarify position on Debenhams

BY MARTIN DICKSON

THE DISPUTE between Burton Group and Sir Terence Conran's Habitat-Mothercare about the development of Debenhams, the department store chain, deepened yesterday when Habitat despatched a letter demanding an explanation of Burton's intentions towards its.

The following weekend press statement by Burton that an agreement giving Habitat an option to take a 20 per cent equity stake in Debenhams was now void. It would also wish to take a fresh look at the options available which Habitat could reap up to 20 per cent of Debenhams' floor space and play a major role in redesigning the store.

The agreements were reached last year when Burton bought three of his shares in Burton's highly successful business for Debenhams.

However, last autumn Habitat agreed to merge with British Home Stores in a £15.5m deal that has turned it into a major high street rival of Burton.

Under the terms of the deal, which made void the equity agreement, which specified that the option could not be exercised if control of Habitat changed hands.

Habitat shareholders accounted for 45 per cent of the equity of the new combined group, called Stowhouse.

However, Stowhouse reported yesterday that it still regarded the agreement as valid since many shareholders in Stowhouse had previously held stakes in both BHS and Habitat, which

could be interpreted as giving Habitat more than 50 per cent of the combined equity. Burton says that its legal advisers regard this as a tenable argument.

Without the leverage of a right to equity, it could be difficult for Sir Terence to make an offer in Debenhams' shares.

This follows a weekend press statement by Burton that an agreement giving Habitat an option to take a 20 per cent

equity stake in Debenhams was now void. It would also wish to take a fresh look at the options available which Habitat could reap up to 20 per cent of Debenhams' floor space and play a major role in redesigning the store.

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Stowhouse argues that it cannot spell out its intentions towards Debenhams until Mr Halpern gives it an idea of where

it is to be allocated space.

Mr Halpern, chairman of Burton, is apparently prepared to negotiate about space, but only when he gets an idea of Sir Terence's plans for BHS. He is anxious to avoid both BHS and Debenhams putting Habitat into adjacent and competing sites, thus saturating the market and reducing Debenhams' potential for margin growth.

He was incensed by an article in a trade publication, quoting Sir Terence as calling on him to sell off his larger one and quickly allocate Habitat space to Burton.

But Mr Terry Goddard, property director of Stowhouse, formerly Habitat's company secretary, said yesterday that Sir Terence's note of exasperation followed months of urging Burton to spell out its rental plans.

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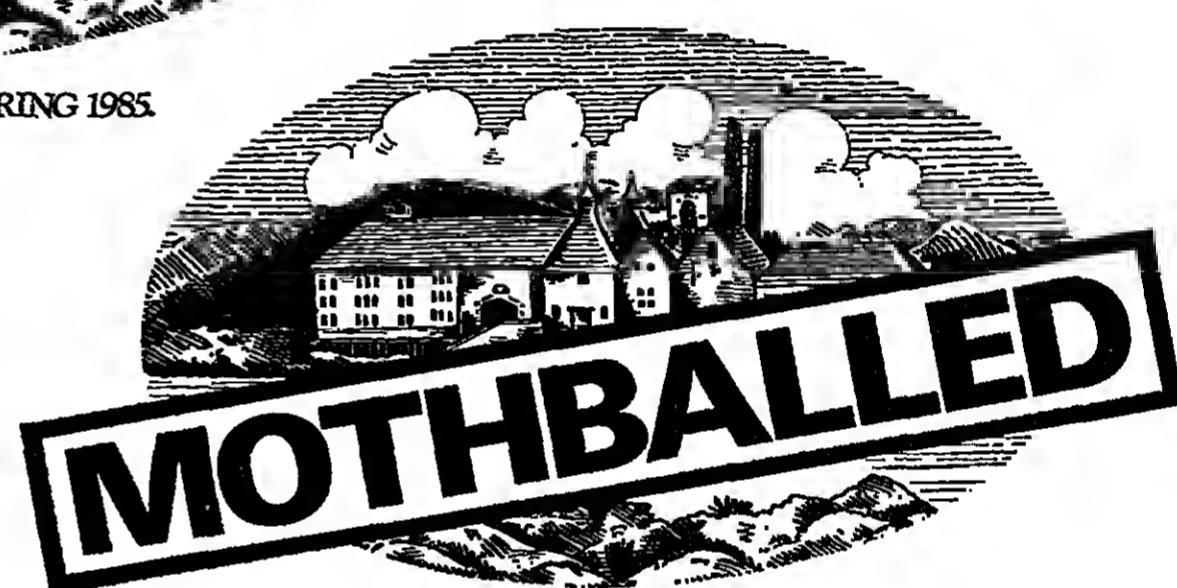
BEFORE YOU CONSIDER ARGYLL AND DISTILLERS, TAKE A LOOK AT ARGYLL AND DISTILLERIES.



LOCH LOMOND SPRING 1985



GLEN SCOTIA SUMMER 1983



LITTLEMILL SPRING 1985

Compare the words of the Argyll Group of Companies with those of Guinness PLC on their respective commitment to Scotch whisky.

Argyll: "In March 1985 the Loch Lomond Distillery, together with certain Scotch whisky stocks, were sold to Inver House Distillers Ltd for a total consideration of £6.9 million. The sale reflected a policy decision to reduce investment in Scotch whisky production." (Source: Argyll Annual Report, August 1985.)

Ernest Saunders, Chief Executive of Guinness: "Scotland is the home of whisky and we must do everything in our power to ensure that the life blood of this vital export industry is not damaged." (Source: Guinness Press Release, February 4th 1986.)

GUINNESS PLC

Guinness and Distillers. A stroke of genius.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Imperial launches attack on Hanson's US record

BY MARTIN DICKSON

Imperial Group, the tobacco, brewing and leisure group, launching a \$1.3bn takeover bid from Hanson Trust, yesterday launched a scathing attack on Hanson's record in the US and its capital investment programme.

In a letter to shareholders it argued that the company by company, the performance of Hanson's US operations was very poor.

However, Hanson hit back last night saying that Imperial's arguments were based on an insufficiently close examination of its accounts. It added that capital investment policy was to only put money where it would give a good return for shareholders.

The new clash comes as the Government is weighing up a confidential report by the Office of Trade asking whether or not the Hanson bid for Unilever and Imperial's rival plan for a merger with United Biscuits, should be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The OFT has taken an



Lord Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust

unusually long time submitting its report. Today is the 39th day of the Hanson bid, which is normally the last day under the Takeover Code that a defending company can issue trading information such as profit and

dividend forecasts. However, Imperial is understood to have received dispensation from the Takeover Panel to breach this rule.

Yesterday's Imperial document said that Hanson's US operations provided 47 per cent of its operating profits last year and were vital to the group's future prospects.

However, it went on, 86 per cent of its US profits increased between 1984 and 1985 while "brought in" through acquisitions a further 8 per cent represented exchange rate changes and only 6 per cent came from organic growth, falling far short of inflation.

Imperial added that in the past five years Hanson had materially reduced its rate of capital expenditure, both in a proportion of sales and in relation to depreciation. This, it said, contrasted sharply with Imperial's rapid growth.

In 1985 Imperial had spent \$193m on capital expenditure in its three main divisions—4.5 per cent of sales dwarfing Hanson's

\$59m or 2.3 per cent of sales.

F.T. Share Information
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Chetwynd Streets (Section:
Paper, Printing and Advertising)
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Spong set for Gaunt bid

THE board of Spong Holdings, the Basildon-based household goods distributor, is today expected to announce a bid for Rowland Gaunt, the Leeds clothing manufacturer valuing the company at about £20m. Mr Stephen Barclay, chairman of Spong, is also a senior director of the USM quoted Gaunt.

Spong recovered sufficiently last year to resume paying dividends on the ordinary shares suspended since 1978. For 1984 sales rose from £1.76m to

£1.84m and profits increased by 245,000 to £271,000. In the six months to April 30 1985 Gaunt doubled pre-tax profits from £50,000 to £60,000 and increased turnover from £2.6m to £3.8m.

On the first announcement of talks on Friday Gaunt's share price rose 5p to close at 86p and yesterday it rose another 2p to 88p. Spong's share price dropped half a penny on Friday and picked it up again yesterday closing at 20p.

McCorquodale, the printing and packaging group which last December abandoned a £12m bid for fellow printer Richard Clay, is on the point of clinching a new takeover.

Discussions have been continuing for some weeks with the Wilkinson Sword Group, part of the US company Allegheny International, about the possible purchase of H. W. Chapman, a specialist packaging business which is an independent division of Wilkinson Sword.

Chapman has three production units based in Wellington and employs about 250 people. It specialises in printed

cartons for the food, household goods and pharmaceuticals industries. It also acts as a wholesaler of packaging materials.

In the year to September 30 1985 McCorquodale recorded profits of £10.2m on turnover of £60.2m. The company's offer for Chapman did not return to the Monopolies Commission at the end of last year and then St Ives, the magazine printer, came in with a £18.8m offer. Subsequently McCorquodale pulled out complaining that the Department of Trade and Industry had not allowed it to re-enter the market in St Ives for a crucial two weeks after the improved offer was made.

McCorquodale closed at 270p, unchanged on the day.

Diploma takes £7m stake in W. German electronics group

BY LIONEL BARBER

Diploma, the electronics and building components concern which has acquired a 22 per cent stake in Electronic Vertriebs AG, a West German electronics distributor, in a deal worth £7.4m.

Diploma also has an option to increase its stake to 37.6 per cent next year at a cost of £5.78m, bringing the total cost of the deal to just over £13m. The initial purchase of the 22 per cent stake in Electronic Vertriebs AG in 2000 has been satisfied by the placing of 2.8m new shares in Diploma at 285p per share, representing 5.1 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Electronic Vertriebs AG is one of the three largest West German semi-conductor distributors. The

group experienced a difficult year in 1985 with likely pre-tax profits of DM 12.85m, compared with DM 14.1m.

Diploma, however, reckons the deal brings it a stake in a similar type of firm operating in the largest electronics market in Europe with the best prospects.

Last year, Electronic Vertriebs AG acquired another West German electronic distributor which made pre-tax profits of DM 2.65m and had net assets of DM 2.64m for an issue of its own shares.

Diploma believed pre-tax

profits of £5.78m were for the year ending September 30 1985, a drop of 20.8m on the previous year. Part of the fall was due to the difficulties in the cyclical semi-conductor market.

Diploma closed at 270p, unchanged on the day.

Bell has 11% stake in Morgan Crucible

Norwich Union supports Guinness bid for Distillers

BY DAVID GOODHART

Norwich Union, one of the largest shareholders in Distillers with about 2 per cent, has told Guinness that it is supporting its bid for the spirits company despite being one of the institutions which has publicly queried the unusual underwriting deal between Guinness and Distillers.

Mr David Barker, the chief investment manager at Norwich, has made it clear that he was not consulted by Argyl—the rival bidder for Distillers—before the supermarkets group decided to seek a High Court writ to overturn the underwriting deal.

While stressing that Norwich was "relatively relaxed" about the Distillers underwriting arrangements he also said that he would not like to see becoming a trend. "The idea of a cost-free 'white knight' if it caught on could lead to a lot

of irresponsible deals," he said.

Argyl, meanwhile, is stressing that any significant increase to the last Guinness offer to top the current Argyl one would lead to serious dilution for Guinness shareholders.

Mr Rupert Faure Walker, of Samuel Montagu, Argyl's merchant bank, said yesterday that assuming a new £260 cash offer by Guinness the dilution would increase from the present 11 per cent to over 20 per cent.

Guinness's share price picked up 7p to close at 285p yesterday having fallen sharply on Friday. Distillers fell 5p to close at 61p and Argyl rose 4p to finish at 34p.

Argyl said yesterday that, with others acting with it, the company now holds 14.36 per cent of Distillers shares, or 3.95 per cent.

Having an effect on the group's profitability.

The opening half year (to September 30, 1985) saw profits rise from £172,000 to £223,000 pre-tax from a turnover of £1.06m ahead of £3.1m.

The directors say sales are continuing on a buoyant note although intensive competition is making an impact on margins.

Costain said this was an important strategic step in its expansion into the recovery and processing of minerals, though the deal was worth much less than 5 per cent of its net worth of about £240m.

Costain Holdings Inc., US subsidiary of Costain engaged mainly in the mining and marketing of coal, has signed a letter of intent to buy the company. Nico Mineral Ventures is managing partner in a joint venture to build a coal mine and processing plant in Montana. It also has silica interests and some small gold reserves.

Country Gardens is asking investors for £3m under the Business Expansion Scheme in order to develop its established garden centres and to open new ones.

To cut costs the company is effectively sponsoring its own issue—up to 4m shares at 75p each—but investors will deposit their money with Country Gardens' custodian trust, the Alliance Assurance Company.

The company began trading 12 months ago after raising £1m from family and friends through a Business Expansion Scheme. It now operates two garden centres in Cirencester and near Didcot. Each is structured according to the concept of the American shopping mall as a centre of activity to attract gardening hobby-specialists as well as aficionados.

Should the issue be successful, Country Gardens plans to expand its existing centres and to develop new sites. The management has already found one suitable site, in Surrey.

Unilever buys in US

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch consumer products group, has bought J. R. Filbert, a US producer and distributor of margarine, mayonnaise and salad-related products, from Central Soya Co.

Filbert, based in Baltimore, Maryland, will become part of Lever Brothers, and will expand Unilever's range of margarines in the US.

It is the second US margarine company to be bought by Unilever, following the purchase of Sheld Food Products from Beatrice Foods in February 1984.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Total of spending for year	Total last year
Automagic Holdings Ltd	2	1	5.8
Access Satellite	1.2	—	3
George Dew	3.7	3.4	6
Drayton Far East	0.7	0.7	1.1
European Assets	0.05	—	0.1
Manchester Ship	111	5.5	11.7
Press Tools	int 1	—	5.5
Vastona Viyella	8t	0.9	10
		6	12

Dividends shown per share except where otherwise stated.
*Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue.
†On capitalised rights and/or acquisition issues.
‡Unquoted stock.
§Includes special centenary payment of 5p.
||Dutch florins throughout.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe or purchase any shares.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the grant of permission to deal on the United Securities Market in the existing 5,930,349 Ordinary Shares of 10p each ("the Ordinary Shares") and the 2,635,710 new Ordinary Shares ("the new Ordinary Shares") and the 2,635,710 6.5 per cent Convertible Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each ("the Preference Shares") comprised in 2,635,710 Rights units. It is emphasised that no application has been made for any of the above mentioned shares other than proposed to be admitted to listing.

A proportion of the fully paid Rights units being placed may be available to the public through the market during business hours today. Dealings in the existing Ordinary Shares and the Right units on the United Securities Market are expected to commence on Friday, 16th February, 1986. Separate dealing in the new Ordinary Shares and Preference Shares comprising the Rights units will take place after 3pm on Friday, 7th March, 1986, which is the latest time for acceptance and payment.

ELECTRON HOUSE PLC

(Registered in England under the Companies Act 1948 to 1981 No. 1723922).

Authorised	Ordinary Shares of 10p each	Present Issued and fully paid	Prospective Issued and fully paid
£1,350,000	—	£593,035	£856,606
£3,000,000	6.5 percent Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each	—	£2,635,710
	—	£593,035	£3,492,316

Electron House PLC ("the Company") has agreed to acquire the whole of the issued share capital and inter-company debts of VSI Electronics (UK) Limited, VSI Electronics (Australia) Pty Limited, VSI Electronics (NZ) Limited and PaceSetter Electronics Inc. ("the PaceSetter Group") which are all franchised distributors of electronic components, for the initial sum of US\$7.7 million.

In order to finance the consideration payable for the acquisition the Company is making a Rights Issue of 2,635,710 Rights units (each comprising one new Ordinary Rights unit for every nine existing Ordinary Shares of 10p each of the Company for a price of 20p per unit payable in full on acceptance by 7th March, 1986. Laurie, Milbank & Co. have placed 1,144,220 fully paid Rights units.

Particulars relating to Electron House PLC are available in the Exetel Unlisted Securities Market Service. Copies may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) until 3rd March, 1986 from:

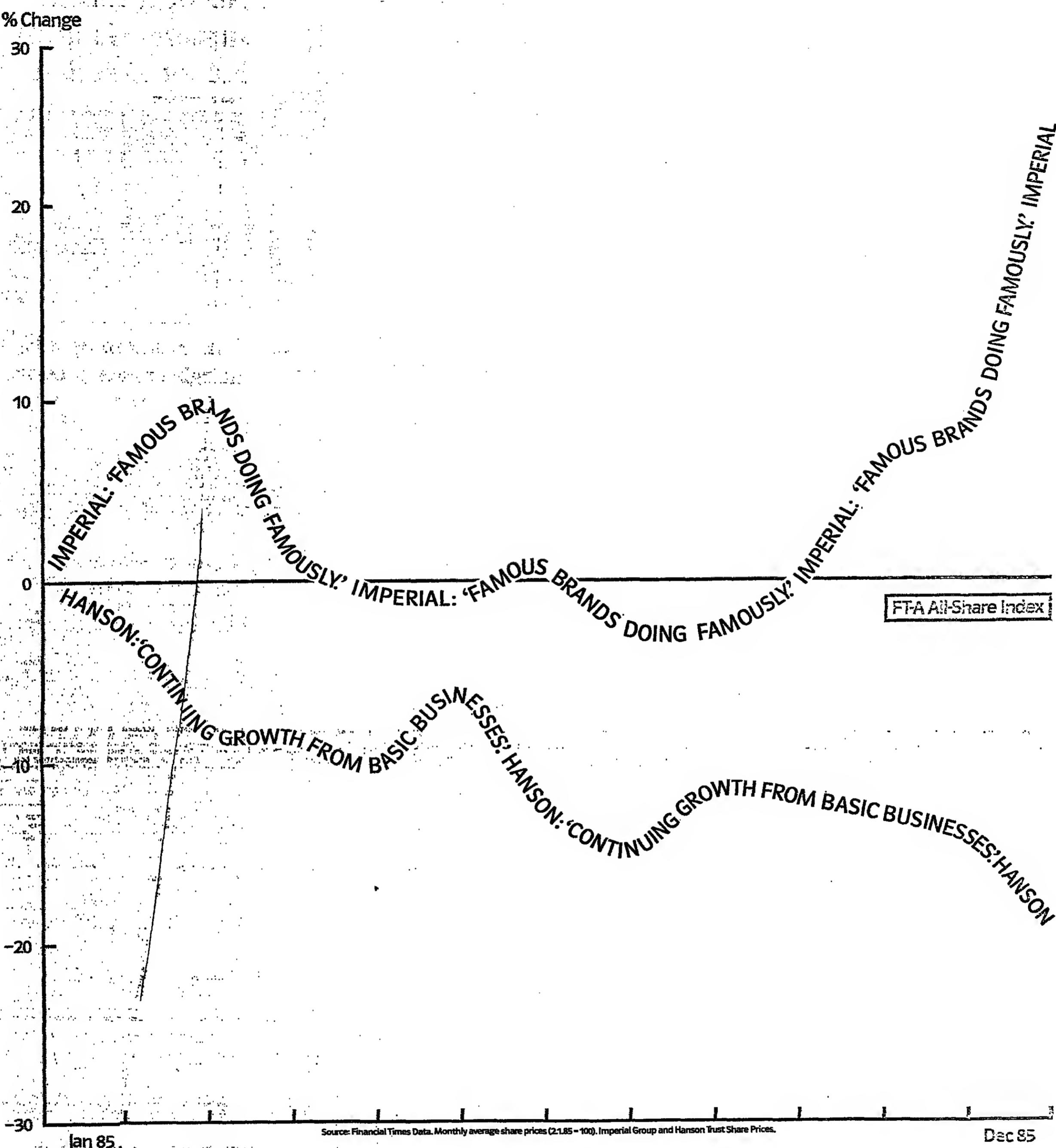
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Or is there something else we don't know?



The sources for information contained in this advertisement are set out or referred to in the letter from the Chairman, Imperial Group plc to shareholders dated 16th January 1986. The directors of Imperial Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed are fair and accurate. The directors accepted responsibility accordingly.



HIGHVELD

STEEL AND VANADIUM CORPORATION LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
Registration No. 60/01900/06

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 23 (FINAL)

A dividend No. 23 of 16 cents a share being the final dividend in respect of the financial year to December 31 1985 has been declared payable on May 2 1986 to shareholders registered in the books of the corporation at the close of business on March 27 1986. This dividend, together with the interim dividend of 8 cents a share declared on August 9 1985 makes a total of 24 cents a share for the year.

The dividend is declared in the currency of the Republic of South Africa. Dividend warrants will be posted from the office of the transfer secretaries on or about May 1 1986.

Any change of address or dividend instruction to apply to this dividend must be received by the corporation's transfer secretaries not later than March 27 1986. Shareholders must, where necessary, have obtained the approval of the South African or any other exchange control authorities having jurisdiction in respect of such instructions.

The share transfer register and register of members will be closed from March 28 to April 11 1986, both days inclusive.

In terms of the Republic of South Africa Income Tax Act 1962, as amended, non-resident shareholders' tax will be deducted by the corporation from dividends payable to those shareholders whose addresses in the share register are outside the Republic. The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax is 15 per cent.

The abridged audited consolidated income statement of the corporation and its subsidiaries for the year to December 31 1985 is as follows:

	1985 R'000	1984 R'000
Turnover	662 101	450 157
Profit before taxation	40 519	28 603
Taxation	11	(34)
Outside shareholders' interest	40 508	28 637
Attributable profit	(57)	2 143
Extraordinary items	40 506	26 489
	(9 804)	5 926
Less: Transfer to 'non-distributable reserve'	31 591	32 415
Interim dividend No. 22 of 8 cents a share (1984: No. 20 of 6 cents a share)	—	518
Dividend for divided No. 23 (final) of 16 cents a share (1984: No. 21 (final) of 11 cents)	5 639	4 092
Retained profit for the year	11 302	7 501
Weighted average number of shares in issue during the year	69 938 196	68 168 154
Earnings per share (cents)	58.0	38.3
Dividend per share (cents)	24.0	17.0
Dividend cover	2.42	2.29

The extraordinary items referred to above arise from writing off goodwill in respect of the acquisition of Rhem South Africa (Proprietary) Limited and the conversion of Transalloys (Proprietary) Limited to a wholly-owned subsidiary.

It is anticipated that the annual report will be posted to all registered shareholders on or about March 17 1986.

Transfer Secretaries:
Consolidated Share Registrars Limited
40 Commissioner Street
Johannesburg 2001
(P.O. Box 61051, Marshalltown, 2107)
Witbank

By order of the board
A. J. L. PRETORIUS
Company Secretary
Registered Office:
Portion 29 of the farm
Schoongezicht No. 306 J.S.
(P.O. Box 111, Witbank, 1033)
February 11 1986

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UK COMPANY NEWS

Access Satellite advances to £1.4m

Access Satellite International, which makes work platforms for sale or hire, raised pre-tax profits by 18 per cent from £1.16m to £1.36m for the six months to October 31 1985, on more than 50 per cent turnover of £5.78m, against £3.65m.

The directors of this USM company say further penetration of the market has been achieved in the period under review, with a continuing increase in the number of machines on hire and also in the hire rates. This trend has continued since October in spite of the winter season.

The group is building up its hiring operation in certain areas of the US and a substantial expansion in this side of the business is anticipated. This

complements the company's cash sales in North America and offers a more flexible package to distributors than before.

Numerous sales inquiries have been received from many other parts of the world, the directors say, and substantial negotiations are underway in several countries in Europe and the Middle East, some of which should feed through into the full year's figures. Three of the company's original directors have now left and Access is still searching for a finance director. As soon as Access accepts its product will not realize the full market potential that it holds in the USA for five or six years, at least until then the company's performance will be respectable at best. The City expects profits of £2.8m and a prospective p/e of 13 for the full financial year.

• comment

Access Satellite's fortunes have faltered ever since it first surfaced on the USM in 1984. The company's shares have tumbled to last week's low of 130p only to be modestly revived by yesterday's rise to 135p. Unfortunately for Access shareholders were much more amenable to its revolutionary alternative to scaffolding than to a conservative construction industry has proved to be. Nevertheless the American market has shown some progress and its growth produced almost all the fast half's profits. Access now face the difficult task of persuading the UK to build up business in the US, by establishing a

George Dew profits fall 37%

George Dew has put at \$80,000 the cost of defending itself against last year's \$5m bid from Brenner, the Glasgow-based engineering store company. The amount has been taken as an extraordinary figure in the accounts for the year to November 3 1985.

Brenner made its unwelcome offer for the Oldham-based civil engineering group towards the end of last year. However, it was accepted by holders of only 165 shares and lapsed.

During its defence Dew forecast a final defence of 24p. The directors are now recom-

mending a final dividend of 3.7p over-provision, the earnings per share before extraordinary items came out at 10.7p, against 16.7p during the bid battle and the comparable 12.3p. After extraordinary items the figures were earnings of 9.7p against losses per share of 7p.

The extraordinary item of \$80,000 (\$5m) left attributable net profit at \$1.6m, after a loss of \$580,000 (\$55,000) and the surplus plus for the year came out at \$235,000, against a profit of \$1.02m.

IN A year of strong growth European Assets Trust has seen its net asset value rise from £1.537 to £1.675 per share by the end of 1985. This is due to an increase of 20.3 per cent in the value of 50.4 per cent in sterling terms.

European Assets is an Amsterdam-based investment company concentrating on small and medium sized companies in Continental Europe for long term capital growth. It is advised by Ivory & Sime and is quoted in London.

The directors see the 1985 performance as particularly satisfactory in the light of the domination of European markets by large companies.

They believe that the current economic conditions on the Continent, together with the increasing number of companies raising equity, is providing an exciting environment for growth.

At the year-end total assets were invested (including cash) at £1.561m. In France, 36.2% Benelux countries 28.1%, Scandinavia 21.4%, Spain 4.8%, Germany and Switzerland 4.3, and Continental Assets Trust 3.9. This is a new investment trust specialising in small companies in Europe.

On the income front European Assets earned £1.008 per share (£1.011), and is paying an unchanged final dividend of £1.008 for a same again total of £1.011.

Dividends and interest on securities came to £1.322m (£1.257m) and interest receivable to £1.161,000 (£1.160,000). However, interest payable rose to £1.363,000 (£1.360,000), management fees and general charges to £1.172,000 (£1.161,000).

RATIONAL (UK) is in discussions with the receiver for the sale of its GBS unit, responsible for deliveries of unpack kitchens. The packs were previously distributed in the UK through Castle which recently agreed to the appointment of a receiver.

IoM Steam losses increase

Pre-tax losses at the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co almost doubled from £203,772 to £304,424 for the year to December 31 1985.

The result reflected a charge of £50,000 (£100,641) for net impairment of property, including interest arising from extraordinary items — and losses on sale of fixed assets.

Extraordinary debits totalled £2.54m (£2.5m). These were

attributable to merger and reorganisation costs — last year the company merged with the Manx shipping operations of Sealink UK — and the costs related to the winding up of the Isle of Man.

In their interim report in November, the directors said the "Mona's Isle" which was purchased towards the end of 1984 had not proved suitable for the company's requirements.

Turnover for the 12 months increased from £12.35m to £16.34m, while at the trading level the company made a profit of £1.615 (£2.131) less. There was an audit of £101,143 (£58,628) and a net deficit of £550,281 (£40,294).

Statuted loss per £1 share was 17.9p (13.5p) before extraordinary items and 10.7p (12.4p) after.

They believe that the House Improvements van Scheme, introduced by the government in October, should bring some welcome activity to the Irish building industry.

It is hoped however, that the continued prediction of falling interest rates in the UK by the Budget are quickly fulfilled.

They say the recent increases in rates, if maintained for more than a short period could have serious consequences for the whole economy.

APEX MINES LIMITED

(Registration No. 01/051/06)

("Apex")

THE CLYDESDALE (TRANSVAAL) COLLIERIES

LIMITED

(Registration No. 01/01124/0)

("Clydesdale")

MERGER OF APEX AND CLYDESDALE

Announcement of Proposals
On 4 December 1985 an announcement was published in the PMS regarding revised proposals for the merger of Apex and Clydesdale.

Notices of Scheme Meeting and General Meetings
Notices convening the scheme meeting of Apex and general meetings of Apex and Clydesdale to be held on Wednesday, 5th March 1986 for the consideration of the necessary resolutions to enable the proposals to be implemented were today posted to the members of Apex and Clydesdale, together with an explanatory circular.

11th February 1986

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Leipzig Fair
German Democratic Republic

16/22 March 1986

Joint news

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COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

'Last chance' for cocoa agreement

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE IN GENEVA

COCOA EXPORTING and importing countries have their last chance over the next three weeks to agree on a new International Cocoa Agreement, Mr Rene Montes, chairman of the United Nations Cocoa Conference, warned here yesterday.

Delegates and observers from some 70 countries were starting their fourth attempt since 1984 to work out a replacement for the current price-stabilising agreement which expires at the end of September.

Previous negotiations between cocoa producers and consumers have broken down over two key issues: the price level and the mechanism for adjusting prices.

Montes said yesterday his preliminary contacts indicated that both sides had shifted their positions on the price

level since the conference adjourned last March.

Producers who had previously sought a median price of 120 US cents a pound were now taking 115 or even 110 cents. Consumers had lowered their median price target from 105 to 100 cents.

The figures compare with average daily prices of 109.4 cents a pound in 1983-84 and 100.8 for 1984-85 calculated by the International Cocoa Organisation.

The gap between producers and consumers over price remains wide but Mr Montes said he had found both sides ready to negotiate.

On price adjustment Mr Amadou Traore of the Ivory Coast urged consuming coun-

tries to drop their demand for semi-automatic revision of prices during the year following market and currency fluctuations.

This would be a fair response from the consumers to the producers' agreement to abandon their ideas for a quota system, Mr Traore suggested.

The Ivory Coast, currently the largest producer of cocoa beans, refused to join the current agreement when it was negotiated in 1980, because it wanted the agreement to provide for greater predictability in prices and earnings.

Mr Richard Thomas of the UK, the consumers' spokesman, said no more in his opening statement than that consumers would work as constructively as possible for an agreement which

LONDON MARKETS

INDICES FINANCIAL TIMES

Feb. 7 Feb. 6 Month ago Yearago

— — — — 229.08

(Base: July 1 1982=100)

REUTERS

Feb. 10 Feb. 9 Month ago Yearago

— — — — 228.01

(Base: September 15 1981=100)

DOW JONES

Feb. 7 Feb. 6 Month ago Yearago

— — — — 221.46

(Base: December 31 1981=100)

• Not available due to suspension of oil in LME

THE REVIVAL in coffee futures prices which began a week ago was maintained yesterday as the May position put on another £55 to £2,557.50 a tonne. May coffee has now recovered £30 of the £1,000 it lost in a reaction against the rise which peaked in early January. Dealers said the London market was basically featureless yesterday with virtually all the upward impetus coming from New York.

The coffee market, which last week fell to the lowest level since early December, lost further ground yesterday as sterling firms. But nearby values finished off the lows with the May quotation closing at £1,669 a tonne, down £5.50 on the day. On the London Metal Exchange aluminium prices declined on disappointment at the International Primary Aluminium Institute's December stocks figures which showed a smaller decline than had been expected. Lead aluminium ended the day £15.50 down at £789 a tonne.

LME prices supplied by Amalgamated Metal Trading.

ALUMINIUM

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash — — — — 1,669.00

5 months — — — — 1,669.00

Lead Cash — — — — 1,669.00

5 months — — — — 1,669.00

Free Cash — — — — 1,669.00

Palladium oz — — — — 1,669.00

Quicksilver oz — — — — 1,669.00

Silver troy oz — — — — 1,669.00

Tin Cash — — — — 1,669.00

5 months — — — — 1,669.00

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 795.5-6.5 — 1,669.00

5 months 810.5-7.5 — 1,669.00

Official closing (am): Cash 795.5-6.5, 5 months 810.5-7.5, Turnover: 31,400 tonnes.

COPPER

Higher grade Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash — — — — 1,669.00

5 months — — — — 1,669.00

Official closing (am): Cash 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

GRAINS

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 995.5-6.5 — 1,669.00

5 months 1,024.5-5.5 — 1,669.00

Official closing (am): Cash 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

OTHERS

Coconut (Phl) — — — — 1,669.00

Palm Malayan — — — — 1,669.00

SEEDS

Copra Phl — — — — 1,669.00

Soybeans (U.S.-Soya) — — — — 1,669.00

GRANATES

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

5 months 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

Official closing (am): Cash 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

COCOA

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

5 months 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

Official closing (am): Cash 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

LEAD

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 278.50 — 280.50

5 months 278.50 — 280.50

Official closing (am): Cash 278.50, 5 months 278.50, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

LEAD

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 278.50 — 280.50

5 months 278.50 — 280.50

Official closing (am): Cash 278.50, 5 months 278.50, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

NICKEL

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

5 months 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

Official closing (am): Cash 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

NICKEL

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

5 months 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

Official closing (am): Cash 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

ZINC

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

5 months 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

Official closing (am): Cash 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

GOLD

Gold fine \$31 to \$300/oz 1,669.00-1,670.00

Official closing (am): Gold 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

GOLD BULLION

Gold fine \$31 to \$300/oz 1,669.00-1,670.00

Official closing (am): Gold 1,669.00, 5 months 1,669.00, Turnover: 1,200 tonnes.

COFFEE

Unofficial + or - Close/Low/High £ per tonne

Cash 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

5 months 1,669.00 — 1,669.00

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CURRENCIES, MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar falls below Y190

The dollar fell to a seven-year low against the yen on Friday, ending exchanges yesterday, but after losing ground in Tokyo it declined more gradually in Europe, to close near the day's low. The market was thin in the Far East, because several centres were closed, for the Chinese New Year, and Tokyo is closed for a national holiday tomorrow. The weaker dollar appeared ready to sell the dollar, in expectation of further weakness to correct the trade imbalance between the US and Japan. Elsewhere the dollar gained only little support from Friday's ruling of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Balanced Budget Law is unconstitutional, which may lead to higher US interest rates, and from good US unemployment figures.

The dollar fell to Y188.15 from Y190.65, the lowest level since November 1978, and also weakened in DM 1.2850 from DM 1.2900, FF 1.13 from FF 1.1350, and SF 2.0080 from SF 2.0255.

£ IN NEW YORK

Close
E/P/WK close

Spot 114.425-1.11 61.6900/1.075
1 month 114.15/1.30 61.60/1.075
12 months 114.65/1.035 61.65/1.075

Forward premiums and discounts apply to the US dollar.

Y285 from Y267.

D-MARK—Trading range against the dollar in 1985-86 was 1.2410-2.2790. January average 1.2426. Exchange rate index 132.2 against 125.8 six months ago.

The D-mark strengthened against the dollar, after the US currency had been sold down to a seven-year low against the yen in Tokyo. Trading in Frankfurt will remain closed today, and a public holiday will also shut banks in Tokyo. Trading was featureless for most of the day, but dealers were encouraged to go short of the dollar in trading, as belief in the strength of the economy will continue to fall against the yen, after it failed to respond to good US unemployment figures on Friday.

Sterling was supported by higher prices for North Sea oil, as well as the colder weather in Europe and the US. The

pound opened firm against a weakening dollar and traded steadily above \$1.45 for the first few hours of the European day. It was followed against most other major currencies, reacting to the division within the Government about Westland and other issues and adverse press comment about Mrs Margaret Thatcher's position as Prime Minister of the week-end. Sterling gained 90 points to \$1.4080-1.4090, but fell to DM 1.36 from DM 1.3625; FF 1.0380 from FF 1.0360; SF 2.0350 from SF 2.0340; and

DM 2.3065 from DM 2.3065.

Prices rose on the London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday, although in the case of dollar denominated interest rate contracts prices finished little changed from the previous day. The strong early rally on Friday was a continuation of the recovery begun in Chicago on Friday, after Treasury bond futures held up chart support levels. The prospect of an appeal against the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Balanced Budget Law is unconstitutional, which may lead to higher US interest rates, and from good US unemployment figures.

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On Bank of England figures its index fell to 122.4 from 123.2.

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Long gilt futures rose strongly. This was initially the result of a brief squeeze, where dealers were forced to buy back their positions, but they continued to gain ground as the pound held above \$1.40 on the foreign exchanges, and the cold weather in Europe led to a rise in the price of North Sea oil on the European market.

Prices of three-month sterling deposit futures reacted to similar factors, and to the slight easing of interest rates on the London money market.

March gilts touched a high of 110-12 and closed at 110-09, compared with 109-08 on Friday.

March Treasury bonds opened at 84-28, and also closed at that level, compared with Friday's finish of 84-13. Eurodollar for March delivery began trading at 91.93 and closed at 91.94, the previous settlement of 91.88.

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Financial Times Tuesday February 11 1986

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET REPORT

RECENT ISSUES

Account Dealing Dates

Options
 First Dealing - Last Account Dealing done - Dealings Day Jan 27 Feb 6 Feb 7 Mar 17 Feb 19 Feb 26 Feb 21 Mar 3 Feb 24 Mar 6 Mar 7 Mar 17 * "New-time" dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

The new trading Account started off in a sparkling form yesterday. After lagging behind recently in the race to record levels, the FT-SE 100 Share Index surged forward 16.5 to an all-time high of 1461.5 — the narrower-based FT Ordinary Share Index also achieved a peak 1185.3 — and Government-hedged rates strengthened to close over a point higher. Another feature was the continued high level of activity in both share and bond markets.

The idea that lower oil prices were not necessarily a bear point for the UK encouraged the new investment managers to be either optimistic or indifferent. Hopes remained high of taxation cuts in next month's budget while the more remote chance of a reduction in the duty on share trading also had some appeal. There appeared to be no short age of funds although the demand for Welton shares attracted a massive £4.5m and the issue was oversubscribed 17 times.

Institutional and private investors concentrated on selected blue chips and a range of so-called "bought issues". Any stock considered as a takeover target prospered, being helped by early news that textile group Coats Patons, which only two weeks ago agreed merger terms with Dawson International, had changed allegiance to Vantona. Vantona's shares were well supported and agreed offers raised Coats Patons' 9 to 247p, while Vantona, which also revealed better-than-expected preliminary results, settled 12 down at 436p. Dawson rebounded 10 to 215p.

Property shares also claimed considerable attention. Speculation that Trafalgar House was ready to proceed with its plan to subscribe despite the latter's denial of a bid approach. MPEC was a contender for the day's most active stock and closed 14 up at 312p. Trafalgar House advanced 13 to 322p.

A lively Gilt-edged sector soon adjusted to its new trading format — all its matures, including Corporates and Bonds stocks, are now quoted clean of accrued interest. Sterling's further improvement against the dollar generated domestic and overseas demand and prices were quick to respond in a market showing distinct signs of stock shortages. The upturn augured favourably for the market this week of the new tax Stock Applications for Treasury 10 per cent 1983, payable £20 on subscription at a minimum tender price of £45, must be submitted by 10 am tomorrow.

CU below best

Composited took last Friday's speculative gains in its stride as further gains in the market were near, new peak levels. Perennial bid favourite Commercial Union raced up to 272p, following Press speculation that

FT equity indices hit record levels and Gilts also rise strongly

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Feb. 10	Feb. 7	Feb. 8	Feb. 9	Feb. 10	Feb. 11	Feb. 12	Feb. 13	Feb. 14	Feb. 15	Feb. 16	Feb. 17	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	Feb. 29	Feb. 30	Feb. 31	Mar. 1	Mar. 2	Mar. 3	Mar. 4	Mar. 5	Mar. 6	Mar. 7	Mar. 8	Mar. 9	Mar. 10	Mar. 11	Mar. 12	Mar. 13	Mar. 14	Mar. 15	Mar. 16	Mar. 17	Mar. 18	Mar. 19	Mar. 20	Mar. 21	Mar. 22	Mar. 23	Mar. 24	Mar. 25	Mar. 26	Mar. 27	Mar. 28	Mar. 29	Mar. 30	Mar. 31	Apr. 1	Apr. 2	Apr. 3	Apr. 4	Apr. 5	Apr. 6	Apr. 7	Apr. 8	Apr. 9	Apr. 10	Apr. 11	Apr. 12	Apr. 13	Apr. 14	Apr. 15	Apr. 16	Apr. 17	Apr. 18	Apr. 19	Apr. 20	Apr. 21	Apr. 22	Apr. 23	Apr. 24	Apr. 25	Apr. 26	Apr. 27	Apr. 28	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	Apr. 31	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20	July 21	July 22	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug. 1	Aug. 2	Aug. 3	Aug. 4	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 8	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15	Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 9	Nov. 10	Nov. 11	Nov. 12	Nov. 13	Nov. 14	Nov. 15	Nov. 16	Nov. 17	Nov. 18	Nov. 19	Nov. 20	Nov. 21	Nov. 22	Nov. 23	Nov. 24	Nov. 25	Nov. 26	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	Nov. 31	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6	Dec. 7	Dec. 8	Dec. 9	Dec. 10	Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 15	Dec. 16	Dec. 17	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Dec. 30	Dec. 31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 13	Jan. 14	Jan. 15	Jan. 16	Jan. 17	Jan. 18	Jan. 19	Jan. 20	Jan. 21	Jan. 22	Jan. 23	Jan. 24	Jan. 25	Jan. 26	Jan. 27	Jan. 28	Jan. 29	Jan. 30	Jan. 31	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 5	Feb. 6	Feb. 7	Feb. 8	Feb. 9	Feb. 10	Feb. 11	Feb. 12	Feb. 13	Feb. 14	Feb. 15	Feb. 16	Feb. 17	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	Feb. 29	Feb. 30	Feb. 31	Mar. 1	Mar. 2	Mar. 3	Mar. 4	Mar. 5	Mar. 6	Mar. 7	Mar. 8	Mar. 9	Mar. 10	Mar. 11	Mar. 12	Mar. 13	Mar. 14	Mar. 15	Mar. 16	Mar. 17	Mar. 18	Mar. 19	Mar. 20	Mar. 21	Mar. 22	Mar. 23	Mar. 24	Mar. 25	Mar. 26	Mar. 27	Mar. 28	Mar. 29	Mar. 30	Mar. 31	Apr. 1	Apr. 2	Apr. 3	Apr. 4	Apr. 5	Apr. 6	Apr. 7	Apr. 8	Apr. 9	Apr. 10	Apr. 11	Apr. 12	Apr. 13	Apr. 14	Apr. 15	Apr. 16	Apr. 17	Apr. 18	Apr. 19	Apr. 20	Apr. 21	Apr. 22	Apr. 23	Apr. 24	Apr. 25	Apr. 26	Apr. 27	Apr. 28	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	Apr. 31	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20	July 21	July 22	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug. 1	Aug. 2	Aug. 3	Aug. 4	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 8	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15	Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 9	Nov. 10	Nov. 11	Nov. 12	Nov. 13	Nov. 14	Nov. 15	Nov. 16	Nov. 17	Nov. 18	Nov. 19	Nov. 20	Nov. 21	Nov. 22	Nov. 23	Nov. 24	Nov. 25	Nov. 26	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6	Dec. 7	Dec. 8	Dec. 9	Dec. 10	Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 15	Dec. 16	Dec. 17	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

AUSTRIA				GERMANY				NORWAY				AUSTRALIA (continued)				JAPAN (continued)				CANADA												
Feb. 10.	Price Schill.	+ or - or	Feb. 10.	Price DM.	+ or - or	Feb. 10.	Price Kroner	+ or - or	Feb. 10.	Price Aust.	+ or - or	Feb. 10.	Price Yen	+ or - or	Feb. 10.	Price Cdn.	+ or - or	Sales Stock	High	Low	Close	Ding	Sales Stock	High	Low	Close	Ding	Sales Stock	High	Low	Close	Ding
Creditanstlt PD	8,375	-	AEG	508.5	-0.5	Sergens Bank	167.5	+0.5	Can. Prop. Trust	2,94	+0.02	MHI	356	-2	1677	Colanessa	\$124	122	125	-	1225	Indel	\$204	204	204	-14	800	Qan Tel	541.5	411.5	411.5	+14
Coesauer	2,550	-150	Allianz Vers	2,210	-25	Scotiabank	485.5	+0.5	Hardi Waernes	5,58	-0.17	Mitsui Bank	980	+6	3050	ComEd A	587	57	61	-14	500	Ranger	440	420	420	-10						
Intermarkt	15,900	+100	SAIF	282.5	-0.8	Hartogen Energy	1,225	-	Mitsui Estate	410	+3	Mitsui Estate	1,010	+10	4850	Centri Tr	514	14	14	+14	3050	Rockay 1	571.5	71	71	-14						
Jungbunzlauer	40,800	-1800	Bayer	306	+2	Iken Norske Cred	117	+7	Mitsui Tetsu	214	-1	Mitsukoshi	690	-	2500	Chum B 1	545	45	45	+14	3300	Redpath	517.5	175	175	-14						
Perimooser	705	+5	Bayer-Hypo	573	+5	Kosmos	189	+4	NKG Insulators	935	+5	Kita Ora Gold	605	-	7110	Computac	517	14	14	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14						
Steyr Daimler	181	-	Vorcam	510	+2	Vorcam	165	-2.5	Nikko Sec	585	+5	Kidston Gold	583	-0.04	Nippon Denso	1,340	-	19500	Comput In	270	255	257	+2	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14			
Waltcher Mag	5,430	-70	Bayer-Verein	510	+2	Vork Data	433	+0.5	Lend Lease	5.5	-0.64	Nippon Elect	1,280	-10	1,340	Nippon Elect	8.92	-	1,340	Nippon Elect	8.92	-	1,340	Nippon Elect	8.92	-	1,340	Nippon Elect				
BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG				BMW	500	+4	Werk Hydro	180	+1.5	MTM	8.92	+0.02	Nippon Express	595	+10	2,779	AMCA Int	\$167	164	164	+14	2,779	AMCA Int	273	268	268	+14					
Feb. 10				Brown Boveri	286	+1	Storebrand	362	+0.5	Nippon Gakki	1,450	-30	Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	3800	Abertord	521	54	54	+14	1677	Colanessa	\$124	122	125	-14					
Price + or Fr. -				Commerzbank	300	+0.5				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	3050	ComEd A	587	57	61	-14	800	Qan Tel	541.5	411.5	411.5	+14								
Feb. 10				Conti. Gummi	307.5	+0.8				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	4850	Centri Tr	514	14	14	+14	2,779	Ranger	440	420	420	+14								
Deutsche				Daimler-Benz	1,545	+2				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	2510	Centri Tr	514	45	45	+14	2,779	Ranger	440	420	420	+14								
Feb. 10				Degussa	472	+6				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	4325	Midl Rom	505	5	5	+14	1677	Colanessa	\$124	122	125	-14								
B.B.I.				D'sche Babcock	217	-				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Deutsche Bank	750.5	+8				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Bank. Int. A.L.				Bekaert	9,300	+450				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Bredström Bank	400	-1				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
OHK				Climax CBR	3,190	+4.8				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Cookerhill	168	-8				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Deutsche				Detheila	8,950	-				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				EBS	4,180	-40				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Electrobel				Fabrique Nat.	12,500	+100				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Hochmann	541	-16				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Deutsche				Herten	218	+0.6				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Hausdorff	178	+8				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Deutsche				Kaufhof	416	+8				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				KHD	365	+4				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Deutsche				Kloessner	109.0	-				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Linde	841	-2				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Deutsche				Petrofina	5,280	+40				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Royale Belge	30,350	+450				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Deutsche				Soc. Gen. Belge	2,550	-25				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Sofina	5,250	+50				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Deutsche				Solvay	6,980	-90				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Stamwick Int'l	1,170	-				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Deutsche				Tractebel	5,400	-30				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526	37	36	+14	500	Region R	340	340	340	-14								
Feb. 10				Verein-West.	427	+5				Nippon Gakki	1,000	+10	5500	Itaco Pipe	526</td																	

NOTES—Prices on this page are as quoted on the individual exchanges and are last traded prices. \$ Dealing suspended. xd Ex dividend. xc Ex scrip issue. xr Ex rights. Ext all. * Price in Schillings.

OVER-THE-COUNTER Nasdaq national market, 2.30pm prices

Stock	Sales (\$m)	High	Low	Last	Chg%	Stock	Sales (\$m)	High	Low	Last	Chg%	Stock	Sales (\$m)	High	Low	Last	Chg%							
Continued from Page 45																								
Oxoco	309	5-16	14	17		Rhodes	.32	688	214	211	+ 3	Spectra	.07	23	204	207	+ 1	US Bcp	1,636	33	324	324		
PNCs	202	36	37	36		Riblins	.25	275	61	61	- 14	SpecGII	.45	55	55	55	- 14	US Cap	183	41	41	41	4 5-16 -3-11	
Pacer	140	51	45	46	+ 2	RichEls	.90	98	25	24	- 4	Spira	.21	164	152	16		US Degen	154	34	34	34		
PacFab	751	142	141	142	+ 3	Rivel	.16	1417	391	362	- 12	StarSur	.20	243	85	85	- 14	US FMC	.05	2860	104	74	- 41	
Pactel	.80	157	142	139	- 4	RoadSv	.05	79	132	126	- 5	Standby	.20	42	34	34	- 14	US HShft	.74	45	41	41	- 14	
PacePch	78	159	172	174	+ 2	RobVan	.00	80	95	95	+ 1	StarSur	.50	540	164	163	+ 14	US Sur	.40	297	214	205	- 3	
Panchnx	.15	56	54	52	+ 1	Rouses	.54	140	260	274	+ 12	Stanley	.20	10	262	261	- 1	US Trs	1.52	105	49	49	+ 14	
ParkOn	.60	12	114	104	- 14	RoyPhm	.1	192	94	84	- 6	SeaSBs	.54	55	45	44	- 14	UsBsn	.24	60	25	24	+ 14	
PatnM		120	62	62		RusPel	.28	248	11	104	- 11	Statis	.056	170	5	52	- 14	UnTelev	.52	32	272	276	- 14	
PausHr	1	490	157	15	- 15	RyanPs	.236	264	26	262	+ 1	Steiger	.14	45	45	45	- 14	UVAEs	1.64	204	504	49	+ 14	
Paxchz		330	251	242		S S		S S			StewSky	.72	5	224	224	- 14	UfnWrm							
PegGld	.06	158	7	65	- 6	SAYInd	.211	104	10	103		Strifil	.78	78	195	10	- 101	+ 14	UhrHlt					
PenaEn	2.20	19	37	35	- 2	SCI By	.193	154	14	155	+ 1	Stratus	.64	554	22	217	- 14	UFSbk	.15e	56	54	54	- 14	
Pentars	.72	424	39	29	- 30	SEI	.83	24	24	24		StrwCs	.76	27	494	494	- 14	UseCst						
PepEx	.10	5204	102	102		SPE	.10	465	10	94	- 5	SuberB	.226	450	210	200	- 209	VLI	185	54	54	54	+ 14	
PethM	1.12	115	272	27	- 27	SRI	.20	111	194	195	+ 1	SubrB	.43	45	94	94	+ 14	VLSI	203	154	144	144	+ 14	
PSFB		668	75	64	- 75	Seafeds	.24	198	252	252	- 1	Summe	.866	35	35	35	- 14	VMX	122	54	54	54	+ 14	
PhilGd	.15e	5567	92	92		Seafco	.150	206	544	544	- 1	SumShl	.10	238	11	11	- 11	VSE	.77e	146	11	11	- 11	
PhnxAm	.53e	1324	245	245		Seafits	.74	127	124	124	- 1	Sunkeld	.250	1	13-16	11-16	- 1	VfdLdg						
PicSav		42	34	35	- 35	SlJude	.443	93	81	97	+ 1	SupCity	.47	5	5	5	- 14	VflFsl						
Picabcs		303	354	343	- 354	SpArc	.5	345	92	81	- 1	SupTextx	.16	158	103	103	- 14	VanIII	1.32	53	474	474	+ 14	
PionHh	.52	13	255	234	- 234	SanCapt	.390	56	56	56	- 1	SymBt	.57	154	103	103	- 14	Vancd	.40	11	255	28	- 14	
PionSt	1.04	967	37	36	- 36	SanSan	.7	5	5	5	- 1	SynCor	.514	52	52	52	- 14	Ventres						
Pofolk	.12	85	57	57		SantSy	.14	18	8	8	- 1	SynTech	.243	52	52	52	- 14	Vicorp						
PolyMg		19	65	55	- 65	SavPps	.88	1	257	252	- 2	Syntax	.252	25	123	123	- 14	Videofr	.22e					
Ponex		358	177	171	- 177	ScanOp	.97	129	174	174	- 1	SyAcc	.57	57	54	54	+ 1	Viking						
Powerd		178	255	261	- 261	ScanTrs	.171	174	184	184	- 1	Systin	.53	53	53	53	- 14	Viratok						
Powert		59	59	57	- 17	Scherner	.32	160	150	150	- 1	Systm	.48	144	147	147	- 14	Vodavi						
Powertw		144	144	14	- 14	Schistic	.41	51	52	52	- 1	T T	.05	65	24	24	- 14	Voltinf						
PwCovw		12	114	111	- 111	Schotz	.79	57	52	52	- 1	TBC	.85	117	114	114	- 112	W W						
PrecCst	.12	354	312	312	- 312	SeagGal	.54	34	34	34	- 1	TCA Cb	.16	11	264	258	- 258	W W						
PrelGm		82	182	162	- 162	Seasage	.804	91	2	2	- 2	Tandem	.3145	244	233	245	+ 14	WebCbs	1.04	68	225	225	- 14	
PrlGcm		509	6	57	- 5	Sectag	.5	2	2	2	- 1	Tandon	.3051	42	42	42	- 14	WebCts	.32	145	191	191	- 14	
PrizeCs	.35	55	55	54	- 55	SEED	.567	3	2	2	- 1	TcCom	.4	152	151	151	- 14	WebFts	.75	145	324	324	+ 14	
PrtrNx		577	395	386	- 386	Seibel	.60	442	204	194	- 10	TelCo	.495	174	104	111	- 112	WebGts	.108	174	204	195	- 14	
ProtDsp	.18	51	44	41-16	- 41-16	Sensor	.20	846	59	84	- 5	TelCma	.2103	57	36	37	- 37	WebHts	.104	68	225	225	- 14	
ProgrCs	.12	516	559	55	- 56	SchwMer	.20	1824	23	175	- 1	TelCrd	.35	825	304	295	- 295	WebIms	.40	125	254	254	- 14	
PropTrt	1.20	30	117	115	- 115	Symatz	.24	653	23	22	- 2	TelCrd	.1014	23	22	22	- 22	WebLn	.47	47	254	254	- 14	
Provln	.40	47	36	34	- 34	ServCrc	.1	233	23	23	- 1	TelCrd	.808	34	34	34	- 14	WebLnAs	.230	162	162	162	- 14	
Punish		320	159	114	- 114	ServCsk	.16	20	19	19	- 1	TelCrd	.74	104	104	104	- 14	WebLnCs	.240	195	156	156	- 14	
QMS		82	104	10	- 10	Sharmi	.104	61	34	42	- 43	TelCrd	.01	155	234	234	- 234	WebLnCs	.36	181	181	181	- 14	
Quadrnx		42	41	40	- 41	Shashlys	.16	245	257	247	- 25	TelCrd	.222	37	34	37	- 37	WebLnCs	.40	205	151	151	- 14	
Quantum		987	221	22	- 22	Sheild	.25	593	365	421	- 431	TelCrd	.262	16	154	154	- 154	WebLnCs	.46	254	182	182	- 14	
QuatkCh		415	55	5	- 5	Shomeya	.101	52	52	56	- 5	TelCrd	.685	78	74	74	- 74	WebLnCs	.185	154	154	154	- 14	
Quikste		224	275	254	- 254	ShonSos	.16	76	276	284	- 274	TelCrd	.145	63	57	57	- 57	WebLnCs	.238	184	184	184	- 14	
Quolote		2078	1414	139	- 139	Silicon	.246	56	56	56	- 1	TelCrd	.100	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.217	7	54	54	- 14	
Quolote						SiliconS	.423	142	14	14	- 1	TelCrd	.339	114	104	104	- 104	WebLnCs	.254	56	56	56	- 14	
RAX	.04	200	64	65	- 64	Silval	.865	865	174	174	- 1	TelCrd	.685	78	74	74	- 74	WebLnCs	.369	154	154	154	- 14	
RPM	.028	159	194	193	- 194	Silvix	.334	52	22	22	- 1	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.483	154	154	154	- 14	
RedSys	.605	142	145	145		Silvac	.47	51	51	51	- 1	TelCrd	.945	735	154	154	- 154	WebLnCs	.527	154	154	154	- 14	
RedTm		501	61	57	- 57	Simpin	.80	141	204	204	- 204	TelCrd	.455	264	264	264	- 264	WebLnCs	.607	145	145	145	- 14	
Reaper		14	5	72	- 72	Sizzlers	.135	174	17	17	- 1	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.657	145	145	145	- 14	
Reiner	1.08	348	351	347	- 347	Slipper	.05	27	59	59	- 1	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.707	145	145	145	- 14	
ReadCr	.24	278	2-16	2	- 2	Smith	.412	2	15-7	25	- 25	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.747	145	145	145	- 14	
ReadGt		273	251	247	- 247	Society	1.84	48	55	55	- 1	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.787	145	145	145	- 14	
ReadLn		45	45	32	- 32	SoclySv	.56	354	349	354	- 354	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.827	145	145	145	- 14	
Replay		108	131	13	- 13	Softeach	.58	104	16	16	- 1	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.867	145	145	145	- 14	
Repls		20	164	71	- 91	Softeba	.121	185	194	194	- 194	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.907	145	145	145	- 14	
Repls		12	2	145	- 145	SocsoftPs	.686	133	341	341	- 341	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.947	145	145	145	- 14	
ReplAwo		10	15	54	- 54	SonfRd	.456	76	152	147	- 15	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.987	145	145	145	- 14	
ReplAwo		10	15	54	- 54	Sonklop	.28	47	47	47	- 47	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.1027	145	145	145	- 14	
Reuler		156	81	114	- 114	Sonkra	.52	25	185	185	- 185	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.1067	145	145	145	- 14	
Reuler		260	57	57	- 57	Sovrn	.28	47	275	275	- 275	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.1107	145	145	145	- 14	
Review		357	352	357	- 357	Sovrn	1.29	776	54	57	- 34	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.1147	145	145	145	- 14	
Review						Speedy	1.036	240	24	24	- 24	TelCrd	.145	55	55	55	- 55	WebLnCs	.1187	145	145	145	- 14	

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LONDON Chief price changes
(in pence unless otherwise indicated)

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RISSES		MEPC	312	+14
Tr 8% 87/90	£90%	Mann & Co	260	+16
Tr 13% 00/03	£119%	Metal Box	675	+35
Tr 2% IL 20	£88%	Parkfield Group	295	+20
Aberd. Steak Hse	88	Poly Peck Int	161	+13
BL	46	Reed Int	719	+14
BP	563	Rotork	133	+14
Coats Patons	247	Sears	119	+5%
Coloroll	170	Staffs Pott.	94	+20
Commercial U	270	Thorn EMI	417	+13
Costain	488	Trafalgar Hse	322	+13
DRG	237	Utd Bisc	234	+ 6
Dawson Int.	218	Wire & Plastic	355	+19
Executive Cl	93	FALLS		
GUS A	800xd	Inchcape	368	-17
Jaguar	473	Ventura Vivel	438	-12

NORTH AMERICAN QUARTERLY 163

NORTH AMERICAN QUARTERLIES			
AMERICAN GENERAL Insurance, mortgages		GANNETT Newspaper publishing, broadcasting	
Fourth quarter	1985	1984	
Revenue	\$ 1.48m	\$ 1.45m	
Net profits	14.62m	14.55m	
Net per share	0.97	1.01	
Year			
Revenue	5.7bn	5.4bn	
Net profits	485.9m	474.4m	
Net per share	3.12	2.90	
ANHEUSER-BUSCH Brewing			
Fourth quarter	1985	1984	
Revenue	\$ 1.50m	\$ 1.75m	
Net profits	79.2m	71.5m	
Net per share	0.51	0.46	
Year			
Revenue	7.65bn	7.16bn	
Net profits	442.7m	391.5m	
HOLIDAY CORP Formerly Holiday Inns			
Fourth quarter	1985	1984	
Revenue	\$ 418.5m	\$ 425.5m	
Net profits	24.5m	20.5m	
Net per share	0.96	0.50	
Year			
Revenue	1.8bn	1.76bn	

